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THURSDAY, MARCH 6TH, 2014

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Campaigners will lobby Parliament to plead for jailed man

RIGHT: Christine Waszcuk and Leanne Phillips are campaigning to have Nicholas Waszcuk released after serving eight years in prison.

TWO Barry women are to lobby the Houses of Parliament on March 13 – as part of a campaign to get a local man released from prison.

Christine Waszcuk and Leanne Phillips believe Nicholas Waszcuk, Christine's son and Leanne's boyfriend, has served a far longer sentence than he should have.

In 2006, Nicholas, then aged 18, pleaded guilty to a charge of grievous bodily harm and

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN



was sent to prison under an IPP sentence. IPP stands for Imprisonment for public protection

Christine told The GEM: "As his mother, I have to say he deserved to go to prison, but not with an IPP sentence. It is effectively a life sentence without a release date."

Leanne said:

"Nicholas was 18 years old when he was charged with GBH. He admitted and pleaded guilty to the charge and received the IPP, which is a 99-year sentence with a tariff to serve two years before parole."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

THREE CHOIRS RAISE THE ROOF



Woman (19) jailed for knife attack

A YOUNG woman was terrified when a friend, who arrived unexpectedly at her Barry home, lunged at her with a steak knife, writes AJ SICLUNA.

Cardiff Crown Court heard that Samantha Cushing suffered a stab wound to her right arm during the incident in Williams Crescent.

Natalie Wilson, 19, of Waltham Forest, London E11, was sentenced to eight months in a young offender institution. A restraining order was also made preventing Wilson from contacting the victim.

Wilson pleaded guilty to causing actual bodily harm, theft, and possession of a knife.

Prosecutor Ian Kolville said the victim, aged 27, had known Wilson for some time.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

ON Friday, February 28, the people of Barry were entertained to a night of "wonderful singing" by the three choirs of Barry – the Barry Ladies Choir, The Barry Choral Society and the Barry Male Voice Choir.

The concert at St Mary's Church, Barry, was organised by the Mayor of Barry, Coun Claire Curtis, in aid of her charities for the year, The Jam Fund and Ty Hapus.

As well as being entertained by two sets from each choir and an opening and closing song, which saw all choristers join together, the audience was also treated to two performances from a young and up-and-coming star and a pupil at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg, Jodi Bird.

Coun Curtis said: "I cannot thank the three choirs and Jodi enough for giving their time, not only on Friday evening, but their commitment over the last couple of months to rehearsals and organising the logistics of the concert."

"The evening was a great success and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the programme, which ranged from Welsh and African numbers to clas-

sical and West End songs.

"The concert was completely sold out. Thank you to everyone who supported the event which raised valuable funds for the two charities."

"May I also thank Father Ben, for allowing the concert to be held in St Mary's Church – which was a wonderful venue for the event"

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'Vale tax rise is disgraceful'

WE have been told that Vale council tax is likely to rise 4.5 per cent – not including the local council and police precept.

This is a disgraceful cost that the Vale taxpayer can do without. Where on earth does the council expect the people to fund this cost from? They cannot just keep on expecting people to dig deeper into their pockets.

They have even said that it will have to mean job losses and cuts in services.

I wonder how many top councillors will be cut?

At least Cardiff councillors are taking a pay cut.
D J Radford,
Barry.

The Big Fill: 'PATCH AND MAKE-DO!'

THE Vale is halfway through a three-year tranche of capital spending to remedy highway deterioration. Highway authorities overall won this extra funding on a case that renovation is better value than 'patch and make do'.

One example is Penarth Road, where Cardiff scraped and resurfaced their section, while the Vale persisted with patching. The crumbling surface there is a hazard for cyclists and causes damaging jolting of vehicles.

The jolting especially of heavier lorries and buses cracks the road

base and rapidly generates potholes, with higher costs in patching than if properly maintained.

Has the Vale highway section diverted the extra 'capital' spending (ie borrowing repaid by higher future council taxes over 20 years) to their 'Big Fill', the PR term for patch-and-make-do?

Common observation shows no improvement in the overall state of repairs of the Vale's potholed roads. Where's the evidence that the capital spending has been properly used? Is the Big Fill not a Big Con?

Max Wallis, Penarth.
(Barry&Vale FoE coordinator)

RAMPING UP HEART MESSAGE

ON February 7, we asked people across Wales to 'Ramp up the Red' for the British Heart Foundation (BHF) Cymru and join us in the fight for every heartbeat and raise money to continue to fund the vital research needed to fight heart disease.

We were not disappointed – we saw people across Wales fundraise by wearing red make up, red clothing or throwing a red party in support of us.

It may come as a surprise to your readers that coronary heart disease (CHD) is Wales' single biggest killer. It kills nearly one in six men and more than one in ten women, and is responsible

for 4,600 deaths in the Wales each year, an average of 12 people each day. There are almost 125,500 people in Wales living with CHD.

We are hugely grateful for the funds raised so far, which will go towards supporting the thousands of people in Wales currently living with coronary heart disease.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind those who got involved with Ramp up the Red to pay in the money raised. Every penny makes a huge difference.

For more information about Ramp up the Red, or to donate, please visit bhf.org.uk/red.
Catherine Campbell, Community Fundraising Manager, SE Wales, (BHF) Cymru.

Readers' Letters

IMPORTANT! We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. LETTERS AND EMAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER. AN EMAIL ADDRESS ALONE IS NOT SUFFICIENT!

We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, DON JOHN, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

'First Independents are delivering for Llantwit'

WITH reference to the letter headed 'Chance for our councillors to deliver for Llantwit Major' (The GEM, February 20), I am pleased that Mr David Thomas has reminded the people of Llantwit Major of our election promises, and that we made the commitment to press for a new comprehensive school.

We have pressed hard

and got more for Llantwit Major from the Vale Council than the Conservative administration ever gave us.

I am sure Mr Thomas will remember that Cowbridge came first in the queue for a new school; and then St Cyres, Penarth, has been given a 21st Century Learning Community when the Tories were in power, and Llantwit Major was left with the scraps.

It is naive to suggest

we, as Llantwit First Independents run the Vale Council in the coalition. Does Mr Thomas believe that the Lib-Dems run Westminster?

Let me assure everyone that we press for a fair share of the resources for Llantwit Major, especially for the children – and in doing so, we have been offered a spend of over £22 million on the proposed Llantwit Major Learning Community – which will enable all our children to enjoy modern buildings and facilities for years to come.

This has only happened because Llantwit First Independents have a bargaining position, but certainly not total control of the council.

These proposals will provide excellent modern facilities and must be preferable, rather than seeing Eagleswell join the queue for repairs estimated at over £1 million to bring a school, which opened in 1971, up to modern standards.

When the Vale joins Cardiff, this queue will grow even longer, and we will be waiting for repairs while the school deteriorates.

In the ideal world, we

would like a new comprehensive and two new primary schools, but it is a matter of record that councils throughout Wales do not have the money they used to have, and this is not a realistic option.

We have been offered an opportunity to secure the quality of our schools for years to come and we, as Llantwit First Independents, voted for it in the belief it was the best available for the town in the present financial climate, and in the best interests of our children.

We shall now await the outcome of the consultation exercise and find out what the people want for their children.

I just hope that commonsense will prevail and the best opportunity we have ever had for our children will be not be thrown away.

Yes, Mr Thomas, Llantwit First Independents are delivering for Llantwit Major; it is just a shame you cannot accept what is being done.

Coun Gwyn John,
(Leader, Llantwit First Independents).

CAUGHT IN THE STORM

DURING the recent storms, we lost two roof tiles and were charged £220 by a local tradesman to replace these (no charge for materials, as we had the spare tiles).

The repair took approximately 20 minutes. When we queried what we thought to be an extortionate charge, we were told we were "getting off lightly", as

that particular firm could charge around £500 for these "small jobs".

Both my husband and myself are pensioners on a fixed income. If we claim on insurance, our premium is likely to double as a consequence.

Is it too much to expect that there may be some fair-minded tradesmen in the area who will not make capital out of bad weather conditions, holding us all to ransom?

Jose Tancocck,
Barry.

HELP THE RNLI TO CELEBRATE!



THIS photograph was taken at the official opening of the RNLI lifeboat station at Porthcawl on June 24, 1965 and next year Porthcawl's volunteers will be celebrating 50 years of operational service at the town.

Station historian, Ross Martin, said: "We are keen to identify

anyone who would have attended the opening ceremony back in 1965. The photograph does show two gentlemen standing under the RNLI flag and we have established that they are, left to right, Mr Thomas Abraham, father of the station's current chairman, John Abraham and Raymond Cory representing RNLI Headquarters.

"If you are in the photograph, or recognise anyone, we would appreciate it if you could send

brief notes by email to porthcawl@gmail.com where we are collating all information regarding our history."

Ross would also be interested to hear from anyone who has any photographs taken during the early years, particularly in the 1960s, 70s and 80s or has information on rescues – were you rescued yourself?

Ian Stroud,
(Lifeboat Press Officer, Porthcawl).

Tenants can beat the 'bedroom tax'

WHETHER in the courts, the Scottish Parliament, or media, the 'bedroom tax' continues to unravel. Meanwhile, those who are charged with administering the hated policy look on in horror as an ever more confusing stream of Government guidance forces decision makers towards increasingly indefensible positions.

There is now a prospect that hard-pushed Welsh local authorities will be forced to inspect 36,000 properties. Meanwhile, many tenants continue to suffer the most abject poverty. This cruel farce has gone on long enough and Cardiff & South Wales Against the Bedroom Tax now invites you to call time!

A recent Upper Tribunal Decision, Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council v BF (HB) [2014] (backed up by Monmouth), confirmed that room usage constitutes firm grounds for appeal.

Consequently, if your 'spare' bedroom does not contain a bed and is not used as a bedroom,

Cardiff Against the Bedroom Tax urges you to contact us!

The appeals process is simple, free and, if successful, not only will you no longer have to pay the 'bedroom tax' but you will be refunded the difference since April or its equivalent in arrears.

You might also be able to appeal on the grounds of room size, disability/illness or if you have access to a child. Either way, we can help – please contact Alan on 01656651209 or email bridgendagainstthebedroomtax@gmail.com.

The survival of the 'bedroom tax' depends upon tenants simply accepting that they have to pay money they do not have, or downsize to properties that do not exist.

We believe that a stream of successful appeals will decisively break it for good.

Let yours be the one that brings it down!

Tim Thomas
(Bridgend Against the Bedroom Tax)

Views sought on Vale 'merger'

IN THE GEM's edition of February 6, Coun John Thomas called upon Jane Hutt AM to state her opposition to the proposed merger of the Vale of Glamorgan Council with Cardiff.

Her response was to refer to the fact that the report was 'extensive' and that she would be listening to all those who 'engage in the debate' and feeding back their views.

Since then, a month has passed and it doesn't seem that we are any closer to knowing her views. During that time many views have been expressed in the pages of The GEM from across the political spectrum, and I'm sure that Ms Hutt has had the opportunity of meetings and discussions with many residents.

Our elected representatives, as well as listening, should be leaders in their communities. So come on, Jane, tell us what you think!

Are you for or against merger? A simple yes or no will do. Your constituents would like to know your position.

Gordon Kemp, Walterston
(Former Conservative Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council).

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL MARCH 13)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
06 Thur	09.39	9.4	21.54	9.1
07 Fri	10.17	8.8	22.29	8.5
08 Sat	11.01	8.1	23.23	7.8
09 Sun	11.58	7.5		
10 Mon	00.33	7.3	13.23	7.2
11 Tues	02.08	7.2	14.53	7.4
12 Wed	03.22	7.6	15.58	7.8
13 Thur	04.18	8.2	16.43	8.3

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Residents say lagoon is being created by 'chainsaw massacre'



More tree trunks are taken away as the council begins work on its flooding alleviation scheme.

RESIDENTS who live near 'Dyfan open space' say the area has been subject to a "chainsaw massacre" of hundreds of trees – to make a lagoon that they believe is not needed.

More than 100 people have signed a petition opposing the land clearance, which was continuing apace this week.

Mrs Tracey Abery, who lives in Laburnum Close, just yards from the area of land, told The GEM: "There hasn't been consultation on this and we have had no time to raise concerns or ask questions.

"A meeting should have been arranged for residents so they could have been informed of what was happening before work began.

"People are angry at the destruction of the public open space. Hundreds of trees have been cut down and hedges and foliage cut

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

back. It is a chainsaw massacre."

Mrs Abery claimed the council had failed to supply information in an understandable way. She said plans and drawings sent to residents who live near the field were misleading, illegible and unclear.

She pointed out that the official website, quoted on lamp posts locally – www.coldbrook-flood.co.uk – has not been updated since 2012.

She explained: "We have been kept in the dark and didn't know the scale of what was planned and that they wanted a lagoon."

Fellow resident Andrew Davies, who has lived in the area for 50 years and at one time worked for the Forestry Commission, added: "We were told that no trees would be replanted because of leaves going in the lagoon. Trees soak up gallons of water.

"Among the trees cut

being cut down have been ash, oak, willow, hazel, hawthorn and blackthorn. Some have had nests in them."

Campaigners claim 'flooding' in the direction of Dyfan open space is not a problem and suspect work is being carried out to accommodate the new development at White Farm.

They say there has been no flooding in the area, despite the torrential rain in recent weeks, insist the council should be expending its efforts in maintaining the drains, and argue that the last time there was a flood, it came from the direction of Sycamore Crescent.

The Vale Council says removal of the trees in the open space aims to widen the water course to provide additional capacity to store flood waters. In 2007, more than 100 local properties along the catchment suffered flooding during heavy rainfall.

The Vale Council says

its aim is to manage the flow of water along the water course to make a slower release into the 'lower catchment'.

The council says it took ecological advice prior to the work beginning.

Miles Punter, the director of Visible and Housing Services, apologized for the inconvenience to nearby residents. "I hope they will understand the need to use council owned land in this way to provide protection from future flooding.

"The effects of flooding can be devastating and civil engineering schemes to reduce flood risk are by their very nature intrusive.

"The land will be returned to a useful open space, though its appearance will be affected in the short term."

The Vale Council said the entire scheme is due to be completed by the end of 2015, and a series of public meetings will be arranged for residents to view the scheme plans, prior to the main contract work commencing.



ABOVE: Andrew Davies and Tracey Abery say the area has been "blitzed" with trees felled and hedges and foliage cut right down.

The All Saints Choir, Penarth needs YOU!

IN order to continue the great choral legacy established at All Saints Penarth, the church choir needs new members.

We primarily provide musical support for the services at All Saints during the 10 o'clock Eucharist and the 6 o'clock Evensong. Over time, we hope to start visiting various cathedrals to sing once a year, and also give the occasional concert to raise money towards church funds and local charities.

Rehearsals take place in church every Thursday (except during the month of August) at 7pm. New members are urgently needed. Experience in choral singing and the ability to read music are an advantage but enthusiasm for the music of the choir is more important.

We are keen to have enquiries from people of all ages, the ideal starting age being 10 years old. **James Bull, the choir master, is on 07429 598820; or email: music@allsaintspenarth.org.uk**

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JRC

JEWELLERY



HEARTFELT FAREWELL TO FR ADRIAN



THE children and staff at All Saints school, were sad to see Father Adrian take his last assembly before he retired and prepared to move to Gloucestershire.

Father Adrian has been in the parish for four years. During that time he has served the school as chair of governors and supported it at many events over the years.

He was presented with a cookery book based on the Bible and a book about Dr Who. All Saints School wishes him a long, healthy, and fulfilling retirement.

LM

Yum, yum, 350 pancakes!



Miss Edwards at work.

A HERCULEAN effort resulted in 350 pancakes being made for the pupils and staff by Miss Edwards, Catering Manager at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School. Anticipation was high as her tasty pancakes are a favourite with pupils and staff alike, marking Shrove Tuesday and the beginning of Lent.

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Tandoori baked king prawn simmered in oriental soices and tomatoes

Set Meals

For 1 £11.50
Chicken tikka, korai chicken, bombay aloo, pilau rice, nan.
For 2 £19.90
Chicken tikka, onion bhajee, chicken tikka, massala, korai lamb, mushroom bhajee, 2 pilau rice, 1 plain nan.

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Pepper's new pal dogs the Ramblers!

THE Penarth and District Ramblers recently enjoyed a weekend of dry weather and two splendid walks.

Sixteen walkers, including leader Robin and spaniel Pepper, set off to climb Table Mountain in the Brecon Beacons National Park by way of steep fields and muddy tracks.

They went onwards and upwards, fighting against a brisk wind to Pen Cerrig-calch – where stunning views, even back to the still snow-covered Pen y Fan, illuminated by the winter sunshine, were thoroughly enjoyed.

A steep tricky descent led onwards along the ridge and a minor problem in the shape of a small grey terrier, who was taking delight in following walkers up and down the ridges.

Deciding the dog probably lived locally, but receiving no reply from the telephone number on his disk, a piece of handy rope offered by a fellow walker was attached to the dog's collar so the adventure could continue.

After the descent from Pen Allt-mawr, a quick lunch break in a stone shelter cairn before continuing around the valley top to descend through Tal Trwynau, led to some extremely waterlogged fields.

Following a sunken lane, the group returned to their cars and a happy ending to the day, as the dog was reunited with the owner upon reaching Crickhowell on the way home.

Canal walk
ELEVEN walkers, including leaders Jan and John, set off from Pontypool Park in dry but overcast weather, first stopping to admire the historic gates, before moving on to the canal basin at Pontymoile where the Monmouth and Brecon/Abergavenny canals were

successfully joined in order to connect Newport with the Ebbw and Afon Lwyd valleys.

Crossing the Afon Lwyd aqueduct and journeying along the canal before climbing steeply up the cobbled road to Cae Brest, the Folly Tower (something of a landmark in the area) stood ahead.

Built in the 18th century by the Hanbury family of Park House, it boasts glorious views of seven counties on a clear day and, having been demolished during World War Two because it was a navigation aid for German bombers, the new folly was opened in 1994.

The ridge continued to the Grotto, where the Hanburys enjoyed family picnics, sporting and hunting lunches and on this particular day, by the group for their lunch break.

Tearing themselves away from drinking in the views and realising from this point it was all downhill, following pathways down under the dry ski slope, they returned to the start after a great six-mile tramp through history.

On March 9, meet at 9.30am for a five-mile moderate walk at Machen Forge, taking in the history of the area; contact Jan/John on 01446 418514.

On March 11, meet at Cardiff Bus Station by 9.15am to catch the 9.30am bus to Newport, followed by a nine-mile moderate linear walk to Cwmbran and a bus journey back to Cardiff; contact Terry on 029 2070 6315 for further information.

Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

JOY STRANGWARD

JENNER PARK SCHOOL'S MAD SCIENTISTS AND MINIBEASTS!



The charity crew.



Minibeasts.



Scientists.

DAVID from AnimalZone recently visited Jenner Park Primary School to teach our year-5 group a little bit about minibeasts.

The visit brought their

topic to life and gave them the ideas to pursue. Teachers witnessed the pupils' overwhelming enthusiasm.

The pupils were inspired so much, they were able to create their own minibeasts, visit a rainforest and write to the United Nations – explaining that as scientists we have created a genetically modified beast that could help control aphids affecting Welsh crops!

Parents came to school on Friday to view the pupils' hard work and were treated to presentations of home projects – created following the visit.

Both pupils and teachers were given real examples of how to bring the topic to life, and thoroughly enjoyed every moment of creating and working on this event.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE
IT was heart-warming to see the Jenner Park Primary Charity Crew roused into action again this week.

The children who volunteered their time from across the age range of the school decided that it was time that we raised money for a worthy cause... our link school in Honduras.

We have been attempting to help with the creation of a better school environment and for resources to make their school life more enjoyable.

Activities included a 'Silly Dress Up Day' and a colouring and drawing competition which pupils paid to enter. Winners from each year group were judged by Mrs Holmes and the Charity Crew and announced in a special assembly.

Once again, the children and families of Jenner Park Primary have shown that in this time of hardship for everyone, they understand the need to help others; £113 was raised. Well done everyone at Jenner Park Primary!

DM

Museum's collection of historic aviation

JOHN WILMOT will be describing the Hendon RAF Museum collection of historic aircraft, covering 105 years of aviation development, at the next meeting of Penarth Aviation Society on Friday (March 7).

Many of the names of the museum's aeroplanes have passed into legend – the Lysander, which because of its ability to make a steep take off and a short landing, was used time

and again for picking up allied spies from Europe in the last war.

Dakotas, airborne since the early 1930s, no longer licenced to take passengers in the UK; vintage flying machines like the Sopwith Pup and Camel, the only Hawker Typhoon in the world, a collection from the first and second World Wars, enemy as well as friendly (and a V1 Flying Bomb) – and of course the late lamented Concorde.

The museum holds a collection of 90 historic

aircraft covering the romance of aviation from its early years and, as an enthusiastic photographer, Mr Wilmot has a comprehensive collection of pictures to illustrate his talk. Visitors are welcome.

Penarth Aviation Society meets at the Penarth Conservative Club on the first Friday of each month at 8pm. Further information from David Ephraim, telephone 01446 721321.

YT

RNLI's beach lessons

FOUR Welsh RNLI lifeguards including Nicky Palmer from Barry, are part of a specialist RNLI team travelling around the UK teaching inner-city school children how to stay safe on the coast this summer.

They are visiting primary schools as part of the charity's 'Beach to City' programme.

RNLI lifeguards assisted nearly 22,000 people on UK and ROI beaches in 2013 – a 33 per cent increase compared to the previous year.

Nicky Palmer, who is an RNLI lifeguard community engagement supervisor, said: "It was great to see so many families enjoy the hot weather by visiting the beach last year.

"The lifeguards noticed a lot of people using inflatable dinghies last summer; unfortunately some got caught out and needed help because they were unaware of offshore winds and were swept out further than expected.

"The aim of 'Beach to City' is to explain the possible dangers out on the coast, as well as teaching lifesaving skills in a fun and interactive way."

VFS

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'Birds of prey under threat' from solar farm

The owner of a nationally-known wildlife attraction on the outskirts of Barry, fears it could be forced to close if a solar farm is built next to it.

The Welsh Hawking Centre, located on Five Mile Lane, is a haven for breeding programmes, as well as being an educational establishment, welcoming many local schools.

But the owner, Griff Griffiths, said he feared plans by Elgin Energy EsCo Ltd to install solar panels on six fields next to the centre would alter the character of the area.

He said: "I am very upset about this. Tourists coming to Barry want to see the countryside, not a 'vista of mirrors'."

"There have got to be alternatives to this such as brownfield sites and using roofs, rather than fields."

He said solar panels could be confusing for the birds of prey while they were out hunting.

Staff believe they may have to abandon displays during the construction period, because there may be noise and disruption.

The centre's ecologist Jamie Munro said: "We have a unique eco-system in the valley, with some rare species. The local woods are sites of special scientific interest."

"We are not anti-renewable energy, but



ABOVE: Jamie Munro with one of the falcons that he says could be under threat if a solar farm is constructed on land next to the Welsh Hawking Centre.

why put panels on green fields – when there are brown field sites? There will be a huge visual impact.

"We have a unique educational tool for Wales here and we don't want to see that endangered."

Jamie argued: "The Welsh Hawking Centre has been an established business in the Vale for 34 years. We are renowned experts in the breeding of birds of prey. During that time, we have sourced our materials and labour locally."

"Elgin Energy EsCo Ltd is an Irish company based in Bristol. This installation will not create jobs locally, or bring revenue to the Vale."

He claimed the ecological survey to support the

planning bid had only taken eight hours.

In its application Elgin Energy EsCo Ltd claimed its work would have minimal impact:

"The application site is not considered to be environmentally sensitive or vulnerable and is afforded a high level of visual containment, due to variations in topography and existing hedgerows."

"Moreover, the proposal when taken together with similar developments in the surrounding area is not considered to result in a detrimental cumulative impact."

"The application site, therefore, has been selected to maximise energy output whilst minimising impact upon the local environment."

Residents suffer a second evacuation

RIGHT: The fascia board at Rowan Court has still not been repaired, despite the damage taking place more than two weeks ago.

Report by TIM CHAPMAN

PEOPLE living at Rowan Court in Barry have endured a second evacuation in the space of just two weeks.

On February 20, The GEM reported how 17 residents had been forced to leave the block after gales ripped into the roof a few days earlier.

The police had to close St Nicholas Road while firefighters guided people to safety.

Rain entered the building through a gap created by a missing section of fascia board.

Last Sunday, March 2, residents suffered a second evacuation with firefighters and the police on hand once more.

One elderly lady told The GEM: "We were evacuated at around



6.30pm. It is two weeks since the first problem, and the insurance company has not released funds to do the repairs.

"We don't know whether we are coming or going. It is appalling." Jane Hutt, our Assembly Member, arrived and gave me and one of my neighbours a lift. I've gone to stay with my daughter."

Jane Hutt told The GEM that the evacuation of residents was "the last straw" for them:

"People have had to leave their homes amid uncertainty and fear of further damage, since the storms stripped the roof off the court over two weeks ago."

"I was able to support some of those affected on Sunday night, as residents left their homes to

stay with relatives when the electricity was switched off as a result of the heavy rain all day.

"It caused yet more damage and distress. As residents, relatives and I have been saying for the past fortnight, action must be taken to replace the roof and fascia boards at Rowan Court, and damage to property and possessions must be rectified, to enable residents to return to their homes."

The Vale AM added: "The support of the emergency services on Sunday night was welcomed by all those affected."

The GEM understands Jane Hutt and Alun Cairns MP had a site visit earlier this week and were planning to contact the insurance company.

ST HELEN'S PUPILS LEARN 'WHO DOES WHAT' ON BUILDING SITE



ABOVE: Pupils saw a crane being erected and concrete deliveries arriving.

PUPILS and teachers from St Helen's RC Primary School visited the site of the former Vale Magistrates Court on February 20, to find out 'who does what' on a big building site.

The site on Thompson Street is currently being developed by Newydd Housing Association into 52 affordable homes as well as retail space.

Jehu Project Services Ltd, the contractors invited year-5 as part of their class literacy project.

They were able to learn about health and safety, watch the busy site at work including a 100ft tower crane being erected, concrete wagon deliveries, diggers and other equipment.

Teacher Mrs Lloyd, commented: "It is a fantastic opportunity for the children to visit a working site on their doorstep and to use the visit to support their literacy work."

A tree to mark each of 700 heroes who never returned



WHITE FARM conservation group, based on the Colcot estate in Barry, is celebrating, after being awarded 420 native Welsh trees by the Woodland Trust.

It intends to plant 700 trees along Port Road East (from the junction of Merthyr Dyfan Road to Colcot School).

During the First World War, 15,000 Barriars enlisted to fight and 700 never returned. The group aims to commemorate a tree representing each of the 700.

It is appealing for public

support to raise the money to purchase the remaining 280 trees.

The group was set up by local councillor, Rob Curtis, who is its current chairman and co-ordinator.

"I hope the people of Barry will show their support by donating to our Heroes of Barry fund, which will pay for the remaining 280 trees needed for this living memorial," he said.

"If you wish to donate, please make cheques payable to the 'White Farm Conservation Group' and send to 118 Merthyr Dyfan Road, Colcot, Barry, CF62 9TJ."

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WILL NEW GOVERNMENT HOUSING STATISTICS REIGNITE THE LDP ROW?

THE release of new Welsh Government (WG) housing projection statistics could restart rows in the Vale over the number of new houses planned, writes PHILIP IRWIN.

Plaid Cymru's Coun Ian Johnson says that newly-published statistics show the Vale needs only 5,600 new houses between 2011 and 2026, compared with 9,950 in the council's draft Local Development Plan.

The figures were released last week by StatsWales for the Welsh Government, and they estimate that by 2026 the Vale of Glamorgan will have 130,000 people living in houses and flats, not including sheltered accommodation, with an average of 2.20 people in each.

In 2011, there were 53,600 houses with the estimated requirement for 2026 being 59,200 – an increase of 5,600 houses over 15 years.

The Vale of Glamorgan's Local Development Plan, applications while the

which was consulted upon before Christmas, called for 9,950 houses by 2026. There has been fierce opposition to much of the plan, despite the removal of greenfield developments such as Weycock Cross.

Coun Johnson said: "These Welsh Government figures support what Plaid Cymru has said for a very long time – that the house-building targets in the LDP are absolute fantasy and should be scrapped."

"It is quite clear that Welsh Government planners and the Vale Council have got this wrong."

"They should now admit this and get back to the drawing board to come up with a realistic plan that meets the Vale's needs."

"Brownfield land already available on Barry Waterfront will take up a large number of required housing, with much smaller schemes in other parts of the Vale to meet local need."

"Developers have been trying to pull the wool over people's eyes by putting in planning applications while the

LDP is being debated and before these figures were published.

"If the Vale Council, Welsh Government and the Planning Inspectorate continue to allow or support these developments, in spite of the facts and local opposition, then we must ask serious questions about our local AM's influence and the failure of the Cabinet Member for Planning to recognise this issue."

Coun Lis Burnett, the cabinet member for regeneration, innovation, planning and transportation, responded that Coun Johnson was drawing conclusions from a time when the economy was at a low point.

She said: "The Welsh Government Household Projections for 2011 were released on February 27."

"The figures that were released are household projections based on a short term trend covering a time when there was significant economic decline – and some of the lowest housing build rates experienced for many a year."

"As the cabinet member for regeneration, Innovation, planning and transportation, I have higher economic activity and job creation ambitions for the Vale to 2026 than has occurred over

the past few years. I want the Vale to be a place where people can live and work."

"Currently my officers are considering this latest household projection data. Over the coming weeks my officers will be analysing and interpreting the data in order to provide an up-to-date projection of housing need for the LDP period."

"This update will be considered by cabinet in due course, along with all of the representations received to the Deposit Draft Vale of Glamorgan LDP."

"Coun Johnson needs to understand that the data that has been released needs to be properly interpreted and analysed."

"The data does not give a dwelling requirement, rather it just provides household data which will need to be considered, along with other population variables such as migration, birth rates etc in order that a robust and suitable dwelling projection for the Vale LDP can be delivered."

"At this stage, I cannot say whether the dwelling requirement figure will be revised downwards for the LDP, as the work necessary for me to consider whether this would be an appropriate and

sensible course of action has yet to be undertaken."

A Welsh Government spokesman said: "The latest household projections are based on the 2011 Census and are trend-based projections."

"Local authorities can undertake further modelling to produce alternative outputs, based on robust local evidence and should plan positively for the future, taking into consideration regeneration and economic growth aspirations, and the need for infrastructure and affordable housing."

"The scale and location of development is the responsibility of the local planning authority to determine, not the Welsh Government."

"All LDPs are subject to a formal examination where all issues are considered by an independently appointed inspector who will conclude whether a plan can be found 'sound' and therefore adopted."

"The publication of the 2011 household projections should not impede work on delivering LDPs. It is essential that local authorities continue to prepare their LDP to secure the jobs, homes and infrastructure that our communities need."

Plaid Cymru's attempt to freeze town council tax is thwarted

AN attempt by Plaid Cymru councillors to ensure a council tax freeze, was defeated at a budget meeting of Barry Town Council last week.

Instead of a precept freeze, the council had proposed a three per cent rise.

Plaid councillor Ian Johnson argued that the town council did not need to raise the individual council tax per house because hundreds of new houses in the town meant the council already received more income than it needed.

He said that as much as 20 per cent of the previous year's precept had gone straight to the council's reserves and that this was unacceptable when families were facing a cost of living crisis.

He explained: "Plaid Cymru backed a council tax freeze for Barry families in this year's Barry Town Council budget."

"The simple truth is that Barry Town Council is raising more money from the precept than it needs."

"At the moment, we are putting £180,000 into our reserves. That's around 20 per cent of the precept we get from council tax payers."

"Barry Town Council, under Labour control, take ten pounds from every family in the town and puts it straight into their bank account. This should not be repeated."

"Plaid Cymru supports better public services through responsible use of tax powers."

"We welcome a new budget for initiatives and events to improve Barry and a grant for 'books for schools'."

"We are always happy to look at new schemes to make Barry better, but they must be fully costed and brought before Barry Town Council before we can agree to them."

"It is simply unfair of Labour, during a cost of living crisis, to just hike council taxes for no good reason."

MAJOR SCHEMES

The Leader of Barry Town Council, Coun Stuart Egan, said he believed the increase was justified.

Coun Egan said: "The Labour Group made the decision to increase its precept to deliver services for the people of Barry. This decision was not taken lightly."

"The increase is less than 3 pence per week for a Band D property."

"The town council will be spending thousands of pounds on the extension to the Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery – this was in the report that went to council."

Coun Egan stressed that there was another local project that had to be dealt with.

"The council will have the funds to regenerate Cemetery Approach, an area which has blighted the town for decades. The residents of Barry have asked for this to be done."

"The council is also working with the Vale Council to deliver a mobile library service to the town."

Coun Egan added: "It is a pity that Coun Johnson did not mention any of these major schemes, all of which he and his colleagues are aware of."

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Local relief as 'Number 98' bus reprieved

THE 98 bus service in Barry, a major link between people on the outskirts of the town and its shopping centre, has been saved for the foreseeable future.

Local campaigner, Elwyn Toozer, said he was thrilled that Cardiff Bus had decided a vital service for the local community would not face the axe.

He said: "There was relief, with a tinge of joy and satisfaction, on hearing the announcement that the 98 service would continue to operate well into 2014.

"The service had been under serious threat since last November and the situation caused alarm – especially to the elderly, disabled and non-car users who would be stranded on Highlight Park and Cwm Talwg.

"Unfortunately, a

REPORT by GEM REPORTER

price had to be paid by losing the last two services of the day, due to the bus being needed in Cardiff in the afternoon, and also the lack of passenger numbers on the afternoon service.

"Nevertheless, this vital route continues. Thanks must be given to Alun Cairns MP, and Jane Hutt the Assembly Member, and the 2,500 plus petition signatories and collectors of the petition."

Mr Toozer emphasised: "An increase in passenger numbers, though, would ensure no further threat to the service at the end of the year which could also lead to a possible increase in services if a greater demand is proven."

Mr Toozer and MP Alun Cairns expressed disappointment that the

last bus leaving Barry town centre on the 98 route will be at 1.30pm.

Mr Cairns praised Mr Toozer for the success of the campaign. Mr Toozer had stood outside the county library for a number of days, often in cold conditions, collecting signatures.

Mr Cairns said: "Without his efforts, I am sure that the whole service would be lost. "I am delighted that it has been retained, but disappointed that the hours have been reduced.

"With the last bus leaving the town centre at 1.30pm, it will mean that many residents will become stranded in the town centre and will not be able to return home later in the day."

The Vale's Assembly Member, Jane Hutt, said: "I have been press-

ing to save the 98 Highlight Park Barry bus service and am extremely pleased to hear that Cardiff Bus will be protecting the service.

"The campaigning efforts of local resident Mr Toozer and countless others must be highly praised."

SOROPTIMISTS' FLORAL EVENT RAISES £800

MEMBERS of Soroptimist International Barry and District recently arranged an extremely successful floral demonstration in the Millennium Hall, Barry.

Club member and internationally renowned florist, Hilary West of Barry gave a witty, informative and very skilful demonstration of the art of flower arranging.

Hilary donated not only her services but all her arrangements. They were raffled and provided a considerable boost to the overall profit of £800. The sum will be donated to club charities.

For more information, visit www.sigbi.org/barry-and-district.



Hilary West, club member and MC, Linda Jones, and president Audrey Hearst of Dinas Powys.

Campaigners' day of action at Parliament

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Leanne added: "Four parables later and eight years on, he is still in prison.

"He needs to be released very, very soon. The danger is that

he will become institutionalised.

"A date is to be set for another parole hearing and we still hope he might get released between April and July this year."

Leanne and Christine

say Nicholas has done all he can in terms of doing courses to help in his rehabilitation, but that process has sometimes been disrupted when he had been moved, due to problems of overcrowding.

They also say he has suffered ill-health after he picked up the viral bug helicobacter pylori.

The two women will be joining other 'IPPers' – relatives of people given 'imprisonment for public protection' sentences – on March 13 to lobby Parliament.

Leanne said: "On March 13, we will be taking part in a day of action in London.

"At 10am, we will be submitting a petition at 10 Downing Street with 800 signatures. That will be followed by a protest with banners.

"We will then be going to Westminster for 1pm, and an early day motion debate in room W1.

"We intend to bring to the attention of the Government that while IPP sentences have been abolished since 2012, there are still inmates who have this sentence hanging over their head, with no possible release date."

Woman jailed after attack on friend

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Wilson arrived unexpectedly with a youth and they drank part of a bottle of vodka and chatted. Miss Cushing decided to go to bed and Wilson stayed, but later Miss Cushing discovered a mobile phone was missing and threatened to call the police.

Suddenly, Wilson produced a steak knife, which terrified Miss Cushing. She pointed it at her, lunged at her and injured the top of her right arm.

Wilson and her companion left but they were spotted on CCTV and arrested.

She told the police she had had the knife for her own protection.

Her solicitor, Adam Sharp, said: "She has genuinely considered her life choices. Being remanded in custody was her first such experience.

"The attack was not premeditated, it was a situation short lived, that spiralled out of control".

He said she'd been brought up in a tough area of the country and had come to Barry to attend a birthday party.

Judge DJ Hale said: "It was a nasty incident, but the defendant has no roots, no real family, and she has had a pretty poor start in life.

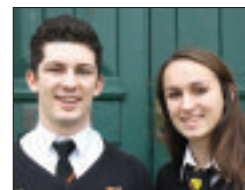
"I am not sure letting her out today would help."

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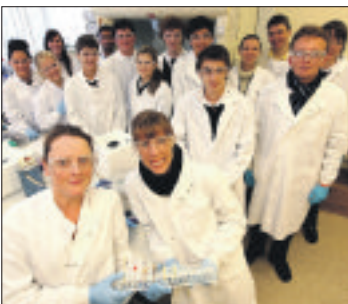
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Archbishop's mixed feelings as he opens town's second Foodbank...



The Archbishop at St Mary's Church with Susan Lloyd Selby, Father Ben Andrews and the Vale Assembly Member, Jane Hutt.

THE growth in Foodbanks shows we care about each other but also raises questions about why they exist at all, the Archbishop of Wales said last week when he opened Barry's second Foodbank.

Dr Barry Morgan said he was both happy and sad to be opening the foodbank in St Mary's Church which is the second distribution centre in the town.

It is also the fourth Foodbank in the county.

The town centre church will open every Friday afternoon for people to collect parcels of donated food, and also have a cup of tea, chat and find advice.

The Archbishop said: "I am glad to be here but I am sad to be here. I am glad because it is tremen-

dous that in our society there are still people who care enough about others to do something practical and bring food to centres like this.

"And I am very proud of the fact that the church has been in the vanguard of helping people who are down on their luck - because if the church of God doesn't care for their neighbours then heaven help us.

"Unless there is health and happiness for everyone there isn't health and happiness for anyone because we are all part of one society.

"I am sad because such a thing ought not to be needed. What is it about our society where people are so desperate that they have nowhere else to turn to?"

Archbishop Morgan said that in comparative terms the UK was a very rich country.

"Those of us who can

afford food can't begin to imagine what it must be like for people who are at their wits' end because they don't know where their next meal is coming from or how they are going to pay their bills.

"That's a reflection on all of us, on Britain as a society - we are a broken society in some ways. So alongside my pride and gladness is this terrible sadness about what is happening in our society."

Vale Foodbank co-ordinator, Susan Lloyd-Seby said St Mary's Church was chosen as a central location following support from its Rector, Father Ben Andrews.

She said: "We are delighted that the Archbishop was able to join us to open our new distribution centre in St Mary's Church.

"We have now fed more than 6,000 local people in crisis and are continuing to see an increase in the number of people referred to us for support."

Father Ben said: "Barry is a very mixed community and there is sadly an increasing need for the foodbank's work.

"St. Mary's is centrally located in the heart of Barry town and the centre at St. Mary's is expected to be busy.

"We are delighted to be able to offer the church as a distribution centre, to be able to offer practical Christian help, and to make a positive difference to people who are in need."

St Mary's distribution centre will be open on Friday afternoons from 2-3pm.

The three other Vale foodbanks are in Barry, Dinas Powys and Llantwit Major.

Research student wins diabetes volunteer award



Diabetes UK president Richard Lane with James Pearson.

DIABETES UK Cymru has honoured a Vale PhD student for his voluntary work supporting the charity in the area.

James Pearson, 25, a diabetes research student at Cardiff University, won the Raising Awareness Award at the national Inspire Awards in Swansea last week.

In addition to his work researching diabetes, James has been a committed volunteer and helped to raise awareness of Diabetes UK Cymru's work in a variety of ways by joining his local Vale of Glamorgan diabetes support group.

"Through his dedication and commitment to improving the lives of people living with the condition, James has worked to involve health care professionals and his research colleagues

in the work of the group, an approach that has been adopted by several other voluntary groups in Wales," a spokeswoman said.

"James organised a national event to celebrate World Diabetes Day in November last year, bringing together leading diabetes specialists to discuss the condition.

"He is also a keen fundraiser for Diabetes UK Cymru, raising vital funds to support people living with diabetes.

"He has supported the national charity partnership project with Tesco, using it as an opportunity to further promote the charity and the benefits of becoming involved with a local diabetes support group."

To find out more about becoming a volunteer for Diabetes UK Cymru, email wales@diabetes.org.uk or call 029 2066 8276.

Council hopes for Assembly roads grant

THE Vale Council has identified four roads where safety improvements are needed - and has published the accident figures for each.

At a meeting of the Vale Council cabinet, it was decided to take the four schemes forward and apply for a Welsh Government road safety grant to pay for them.

The cabinet meeting was on February 24, and the grant bids had to be in by February 28.

The capital schemes being proposed, subject to getting the grant, are as follows:

Priority 1: Cardiff Road, Barry, from the McDonalds roundabout to Dinas Powys Station, where safety improvements to the highway are planned.

In the last five years, the report considered by the cabinet said there have been four slight accidents, three serious, and one fatality along this stretch of road.

Priority 2: Bonvilton A48, Vehicle Activated Speed Signs.

In the last five years, there have been two

slight accidents, two serious and one fatal.

Priority 3: Port Road Colcot Road roundabout, improvements for highway traffic and pedestrians.

At this roundabout, there have been seven slight accidents in the last five years.

Priority 4: Boverton Road, Llantwit Major Puffin crossing and relocation of the bus stop.

The report said that in the last five years, there had been three slight accidents at this location.

Barry Cadets take an 'exciting' glider flight at St Athan

RECENTLY, Air Cadets Lachlan Davies, Zena Poulakis and Pippa from 372 (Barry) Squadron flew in the modern Vigilant glider at MoD St Athan to experience glider flying at first hand.

Arriving early in the morning at 634 Volunteer Gliding Squadron, the Cadets were immediately given detailed safety, weather, flying and operational briefs and introduced to the pilots and ground staff who would be looking after them.

The aim was to gain experience of flying a glider under the guidance of the pilot, using the control column and rudder pedals. Each flight typically lasted 20-30 minutes; flying at about 1,500 feet is sufficient to carry out all the training on each particular sortie, as well as providing excellent aerial views of the Vale.

The Cadets were actually surprised at just how easy it felt to fly the glider.

They thoroughly



ABOVE: Cadet Lachlan in the cockpit of the Vigilant motor glider.

enjoyed themselves while passing their gliding induction course, with 'flying colours'.

Lachlan said: "The flight was really exciting and I can't wait to fly in the Vigilant again. It was an amazing flight. I thoroughly enjoyed the views and taking control of glider was totally unreal."

The Air Cadets also undertake many other activities including adventure training, shooting, sport, field craft, project work and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, expedi-

tions and camps to RAF stations around the UK.

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 (Barry) Squadron have vacancies for boys and girls between 13-18 years old. The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm - 9.30pm behind Adams Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall) or you can phone the Squadron on 01446 747734, email oc.372@aircadets.org or visit www.372squadron.org for more information.

JH

MP's CONCERN OVER THE FUTURE OF VALE BUS SERVICES

THE future of bus services in the Vale can now be clarified, following an announcement on the level of bus subsidies over the next three years.

Alun Cairns, the local MP plans to meet local bus operators to establish which routes could be affected.

The key element for services has been dependent on the level of income bus companies receive from the pensioner and disabled bus passes. Under current arrangements they receive 74 per cent of the average fare for each journey. New Welsh Government's arrangements have reduced that to 64 per cent.

Mr Cairns explained: "The Welsh

Government are reducing the money every year over the next three year period by £2million per year.

"The operators will only be given 64 per cent of the cost of the average single fare in subsidies. This is a reduction from just under 74 per cent and whilst I appreciate this could have been worse I am still very concerned about the risk to local routes.

"Bus companies need to cover costs and a reduction in their income will put local

services at risk. I see only two alternatives. They must either attract more passengers or the Vale Council must subsidise the routes.

"I am concerned for the future of bus services in the Vale and in particular the 98 services. I call on the local authority to look into this as a matter of urgency and work with me, residents, bus companies and passenger groups to ensure that the most vulnerable are not further disadvantaged."

Vale roadworks

Temporary traffic control: Wordsworth Avenue, Penarth.

Roadworks: Stanwell Road, Penarth; A48 from Culverhouse Cross to Brocastle, Bridgend.

Barry Docks Link Road, Barry (March 10 - 21).

Temporary traffic control: St Athan Road, Cowbridge; A4050 Port Road, Wenvoe from Windrush House to Copper Beech; B4267 Leckwith Viaduct and River Bridge, Leckwith Road.

Road closure: Lane to the south of Pendoylan between Pendoylan Nurseries and Gwern-y-Steeple.

Temporary traffic control: Junction Lavernock Road, Penarth to opposite 82 Victoria Road; B4265, from Gileston Cross to the Old Mill, St Athan.

Roadworks: A48; B4265 Wick to Ewenny; A4231 - Barry Docks Link Road; Argae Lane; A4050 Porth Road, Wenvoe; St Andrews Road, Dinas Powys.

Temporary traffic control: Heol Y Nant Road, Llandow under rail bridge.

Roadworks: Junction 34, Miskin interchange; Sully Road, Penarth to Cog.

Welsh language is going global online!

THE National Assembly for Wales is launching an automatic language translation system which will put the Welsh language firmly on a global IT platform.

It has become the latest to join a growing list of languages to benefit from translation services provided by Microsoft Translator.

"This is a great day for the Welsh language," says Assembly Commissioner with responsibility for the Welsh language, Rhodri Glyn Thomas AM.

"Welsh will now sit proudly in the Microsoft Translator family of languages, which is a significant achievement. It is a great step forward in bilingual working that

we have been able to help with the development of such a powerful translation system.

"Working in partnership with Microsoft has allowed the technology experts and Welsh language users to work together to create an automatic language translation system that will help us to deliver exemplary bilingual services, which is a key commitment for the Assembly Commission.

"It will help to facilitate communication with people in the language of their choice, and will help those who are learning Welsh or who wish to understand Welsh in the workplace - although, of course, this technology supports the use of Welsh in every aspect of life, and not just the workplace."

VALE MP's VIEWPOINT 'COUNCIL TAX RISE IS OUTRAGEOUS'

BY the time this column is published, the Vale of Glamorgan Council leadership is likely to have confirmed a 4.5 per cent council tax increase for residents.

This is probably going to be the highest increase across the UK. I cannot believe that such a proposal has been contemplated. It is outrageous, unfair, and nothing short of a scandal.

Inflation is 1.9 per cent, which means that they plan to increase our taxes by more than twice the cost of living. Enough is enough.

This increase is a slap in the face of hardworking people across Barry and the Vale trying to make ends meet.

In England, council tax rates have broadly been frozen for the last three years to help people through the difficult economic conditions. Wales received the same money to allow taxes to be frozen, but chose to use the money on different priorities.

Locally, however, I fail to understand why our Labour/Llantwit First coalition are introducing increases that could well be the highest across the whole of Britain.

If any council proposes an increase above 2 per cent in



**Vale MP
Alun Cairns
reports to
GEM readers**

England, they have to run a local referendum to gain approval. The Welsh Government chose to opt out of this plan, so our opportunity to block such an increase is restricted to showing the council cabinet how we feel. It is important that we tell them.

As a council taxpayer, I am infuriated that tens of thousands of pounds were spent on new chairs for the council chamber, on top of

the hundreds of thousands of pounds they spent on its renovation. Did these projects have to cost so much?

Earlier this year, I launched a 'Freeze the Bill – the Council Tax Bill' campaign. It is hard to believe that the same people that are planning to increase our council tax by 4.5 per cent are the same ones that are calling for energy prices to be frozen.

This is sheer hypocrisy. This is a bill that they have complete control over (unlike international energy prices), so why not use their power to help hardworking people by freezing the council tax bill instead?

There is a need for a better settlement from the Welsh Government to us here in the Vale and I launched a 'Fair funding' campaign to help our local council. I cannot believe that they didn't want to be part of the all-party effort.

Why would they not want to seek a better settlement from the Welsh Government?

This is at a time when everyone is trying to recover from the deepest recession in a century.

Every effort must be made to alleviate costs on working people.

News out of class at the Barry Comprehensive

Revision week-end

A TOTAL of 46 students and 25 teachers and learning support assistants ignored usual week-end pastimes to study crucial skills at a Cardiff Hotel last weekend.

Mr Mark Kennedy targeted the boys very carefully, with the ultimate goal being that all 46 learners achieve a maths and English qualification and at least three other GCSEs.

The school has run a similar programme for 16 years, but changed the format dramatically to ensure that there was a bespoke maths or English focus for selected students.

The other significant change was the small group focus; the students really valued this, as no group was bigger than six and some were two or three students.

One student said: "Working in small groups has meant that I know exactly what to do and how to do it."

The programme for the weekend was intense, consisting of structure, focused group sessions, motivational sessions, peer mentoring training, maths apps support and a Webinar from a maths



Miss Walters and Mr Piekelnik serve lunch.

specialist in Dubai.

Julia Carmichael and Laura Morris (specialist English and maths advisors from the consortium) also visited and were clearly impressed by the commitment of staff and the positive attitudes of the students involved.

It was only the start of a final drive in this intensive stage of the boys' training and the students know they will be meeting their curriculum mentors every two weeks in order to monitor progress and attitude to learning.

We wish our learners every success in this final five months of focused



Students listening intently to the presenter.

work and have faith that they will 'finish strong'. We also thank a small army of staff who made the weekend possible and for their continued hard work and dedication in providing an 'Opportunity to Succeed' for every student.

Centre reopens

PENARTH Leisure Centre, which was recently damaged by fire, re-opened on Monday (March 3).

AC

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Ancient and modern line up for flood-hit farmers

MODERN tractors will line up against vintage counterparts this Sunday (March 9), when Glamorgan NFU Cymru members set out to raise money for flood-hit farmers in Somerset.

The farming community in Glamorgan has been so moved by the plight of fellow farmers in the Somerset Levels that it wanted to do its bit to help. The suggestion to hold a fund-raising tractor run came

from Glamorgan Iron Horse Vintage Society member, Richard Rees and arable farmer, Richard Anthony.

On Sunday, around 150 tractors old and new are expected to take to the coast road around Ogmore and Marcross, with each driver paying £10 to enter.

Mr Rees said the plight of the farmers in Somerset was very much on the minds of the local community. "We have hurried things along to get this run organised while the events in Somerset are still fresh in everyone's minds," he



The tractor run will help Somerset farmers.

explained... "And for those rugby fans anxious about missing the England v Wales rugby international, the event will have ended before kick-off."

Mr Rees says the society expects to raise around £5,000 from entry fees, a raffle and sponsorship.

"We have had some very generous pledges from local agricultural suppliers and tractor companies," he reported.

The 20-mile run will start from and end at Mr Anthony's farm at Pentre Hwnt Farm, Llampha and is not restricted to vintage tractors - to encourage a greater number of people to participate: "We wanted the

maximum number of tractors to get involved so we've thrown it open to everyone with a tractor," Mr Anthony said.

The line-up will include two extreme examples of tractors spanning the generations - a Case Quadtrac 600hp and a 1920s Standard Fordson. Mr Anthony learned to drive on the Fordson.

"When you see the tractors next to each other, it gives a tremendous snapshot of how far the industry has progressed. I don't think we will see such progress in the next generation," he said.

The tractor run will leave Pentre Hwnt at 10am. Drivers will stop

en route for a hot meal at Llandow Circuit provided by farmer's daughter, Cath Jones. Mr Anthony encouraged as many people as possible to come along to the start line at 9.30am when hot drinks and cakes will be served.

"We want to give these tractors a good send-off and raise as much money as possible for the farmers," he said. "It could be another year before they are able to provide their own animal feed, this isn't a short-term situation and they need our help."

For further information, contact Richard Rees on 07796 330089 or Richard Anthony on 07970 820152.



Toddlers practice their Welsh!

THE Vale MP, Alun Cairns, recently spent a morning with members of Babi Bach baby group at Coconuts Play Centre in Barry, to watch the youngest toddlers learn and practice Welsh.

Founded by Penni Carr, Babi Bach aims to introduce children to the language from the youngest age.

He commented: "I thoroughly

enjoyed the experience, which took me back to my playgroup days. Penni does a fantastic job with the children teaching them Welsh through music and language.

"By using song and nursery rhymes in both Welsh and English, it makes learning fun."

"I re-visited many songs from my childhood and to see such small children learning through the medium of play was very inspiring."

Porthcawl and Barry, together for St David!

TWO of south Wales' most popular seaside resorts came together on Saturday to celebrate the principal's patron Saint when Porthcawl Male Choir were joined by the Barry-based, Vale of Glamorgan Brass Band, at the town's All Saints Church in a St David's Day concert.

The choir was under the baton of musical director, Mair Jones and accompanied by Richard Davies, while the band was under the direction of its conductor, David Short.

Fittingly, the primary theme of the evening for both band and choir was the music of Wales, with the band playing such pieces as the Castell Coch march, Sospol Fach and an entertaining and different arrangement of Llwn On, more familiarly known as the Ash Grove.

One of Wales' most popular pieces, Myfanwy, was played as a solo piece on the euphonium, which proved to be very popular with the audience.

The choir complemented the Welsh-themed programme with a variety of pieces such as, Let all Men Sing, Anthem from Chess and World In Union, as well as the Latin, Ave Verum. The Welsh melodies included the much loved Tydi Y Rhoddaist, in which the second tenor section of the choir excels, Bryn Myrddin.

LENTEN LUNCHES

THE churches of St Paul's and Merthyr Dyfan are holding Lenten lunches at St Paul's Avenue on March 11 and March 18, and April 1-8 from 12.30pm-2pm.

The lunches will consist of soup, cheese, biscuits, baguettes, tea or coffee, for £2.

Rachie and the emotional piece O Cymru.

At the end of the first half, the choir and band came together in a rendering of the ever-popular hymn Gwahoddiaid with its stirring Amen ending.

This joint effort was repeated as a finale at the end of the concert with, Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah, in which the audience joined in. The Welsh National

Anthem drew the concert to an end with band, choir and audience singing together.

This was the first occasion in which the Porthcawl Male Choir and the Vale of Glamorgan Brass Band have come together, it is sincerely hoped that it will not be the last.

JOHN WILLIAMS
(Porthcawl Male Voice Choir)

Councillor's top national award delight

WHEN the winners of the 2014 LGU and CCLA councillor achievement awards were announced at a ceremony in Westminster City Hall recently, Barry Labour councillor, Rob Curtis, was announced as Sustainability Champion of the Year.

Coun Rob Curtis, cabinet member responsible for the environment and visible services and the Vale Council's Biodiversity Champion said: "Without the support of the people of Barry and the wider Vale

I could achieve nothing. "I want to dedicate this award to all the hard working front line council staff and, most importantly, the volunteers who support my environmental work week in.

"The judges were impressed with the way the Vale Council had highlighted the importance of the 'State of Nature Report' to our local bio-diversity; the way we have added a 'Sustainability and Climate Change' section to all council reports; and also the award-winning beach cleaning work of the 'Friends of Barry Beaches', which I launched nearly four years ago," he explained.

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PACT meetings

BUTTRILLS PACT, at The Philip John Community Room, Barry Library on March 6 at 6.30pm.

ILTYD PACT at the Mount Sorrel Hotel, Porthkerry Road on March 20 at 7pm.

COURT PACT at The HUB, YMCA, Court Road Barry on March 20 at 6pm.

CADOC PACT at the Palmerston Community and Learning Centre on March 26 at 7pm.

PLYMOUTH PACT at The Community Centre, Brockhill Way, Penarth, on March 12 at 7pm.

STANWELL PACT at The Pod, St Lukes Avenue, Penarth, on March 14 at 7pm.

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WE'VE FILLED IN THE BLANKS!



We are grateful to GEM readers for filling in the missing blanks in this 1950s picture of Barry Town AFC personnel. Left to right: 1. George Ryan (director). 2. The manager, Harry Haslam. 3. George Gray. 4. Colin Vincent. 5. Peter Isaacs. 6. John Prosser. 7. Ken Dolman. 8. Albert Gardner (trainer). 9. Basil Bright. 10. Brian James. 11. Seymour Isaacs (voluntary clerical staff). 12. George Evans. 13. Elwyn Brewer. 14. Trevor Clarke. 15. Dick Twigg. 16. Bill Hanbury. 17. Mr Snook (director).

Villagers oppose Bluebirds' plan for Vale training base

PLANS to build a state-of-the-art training academy for Cardiff City FC at Hensol in the Vale were announced with a great fanfare in May last year – but local villagers fear that they will be “overwhelmed” by the development.

They have formed an action group, the Hensol Community Group (HCG), to oppose the scheme, which will spread out over 37 acres, with 15 training pitches.

The immediate area already plays host to the Welsh Rugby Union's National Centre of Excellence – the base for Warren Gatland's national side.

The HCG chairman, Janet

Israel, told The GEM: “The area is classed as being of special landscape value, comprising lowland grass, so surely they should be looking at a brownfield site.

“Also, one building will be very large indeed – 100 metres long – and will dominate the area. We are a tiny community and feel that our hamlet, comprising 19 homes, will simply be overwhelmed.”

She said: “It is very difficult when you are up against the much greater resources that developers have.

“They get as much time as they want to put their plans together, while we get a few weeks to register our objections”.

The developer's application says that the building is intended to be surrounded by training pitches, and that it will be 175 metres away from the nearest residential

housing. It will include a gymnasium, swimming pool, treatment rooms and dining rooms. On top of the building will be a spectator terrace that overlooks the training pitches.

The developers note that a sewage plant is within the grounds and this will stay, as it will be adjacent to the first team accommodation in the building.

There will, say the developers, be no floodlighting or stands, although spectators will be allowed at academy fixtures, and under-16 and under-18 games.

At the moment, Cardiff City share a training facility with the Cardiff Blues, about a mile away in the Hensol Resort grounds.

The application is expected to come before the Vale Council's planning committee in the next few months.

Rotarians' night out!

BARRY Rotarians recently held their annual dinner at the Cardiff and Vale College on Colcot Road, Barry.

The club invited the Mayor of the Vale, Coun Margaret Wilkinson and consort Mrs Jane Norman, and the Mayor of Barry, Coun Claire Curtis with her consort, Coun Rob Curtis, as their special guests.

A five-course meal was prepared by students from the hospitality department of the college. Coun Wilkinson said: “The food served was first class and the evening gave an excellent opportunity for the future chefs and restaurant managers to prepare and serve a formal dinner to guests who very much appreciated the meal.”

“We are very grateful to the Rotary Club for inviting us”.



Mrs Jane Norman, Coun Margaret Wilkinson, Rotary president Peter Battle and Coun Claire Curtis.



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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. “Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.”

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthowl areas and Phil is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. “The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've



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DOG OWNERS ARE WARNED: 'Beware of imported puppies'

THE Dogs Trust charity is "gravely concerned" about the growing trend for owning 'exotic' dog breeds, many of which may be imported from abroad.

It has seen the number of dogs handed in rise in recent months.

"There is growing concern about puppies being brought illegally into the UK, advertised on classified websites and sold with inappropriate documentation and vaccination records," said Dogs Trust Veterinary Director Paula Boyden.

Dogs Trust Bridgend is appealing to local dog lovers to help find loving homes for one such dog.

Buck is a six-month-old Sarplaninac puppy legally purchased by his Welsh owner in Calais from a breeder who had transported him from Hungary.

The owner had little experience of dog ownership, but had knowledge of the breeder from neighbours who had also bought dogs

abroad.

Dogs Trust Bridgend Rehoming Centre Manager Beverley Price said: "It is easy to see why such beautiful dogs appeal to people, who are prepared to go to such great lengths to own them, but we are gravely concerned about the ease with which people are able to obtain these dogs."

"Fortunately, Buck's owner asked us for advice as soon as it became apparent that she was not in a position to look after him, but we fear that many people buying dogs from abroad may not be as conscientious when they take on more than they bargained for, and will end up abandoning the dogs."

Beverley adds: "Buck has been given a clean bill of health and is now ready for a loving new home."

Sarplaninac dogs are an energetic, giant breed, originally bred to guard sheep in the Macedonian Hills, and need plenty of exercise and space to run around in. Buck is looking for an owner

who has experience of large dogs and understands the demands of training young puppies.

"He would be ideally suited to a small-holding. He is a friendly, fun-loving puppy who would make a great pet in the right environment with a patient, experienced owner."

What to look out for when buying a puppy online:

Always see a puppy with its mother where possible; a puppy should be three months old in order to be fully vaccinated, issued with a passport and enter the UK.

Any puppy advertised as less than three months old but with a passport, may have entered the country with fraudulent documentation.

If the puppy is already microchipped, remember that a chip is not enough – find out which database it is registered to, and whether this database is based in the UK.

Anyone interested in rehoming Buck can visit www.dogstrust.org.uk.



Buck is now at the Dogs Trust.
Picture by Natasha Rudge.

The GEM has joined forces with the Dogs Trust to find suitable homes for inmates at the Bridgend rehoming centre.

Sensitive Willow needs new home

WILLOW is a five-year-old Lab cross, who is sensitive with strangers to begin with, but very sweet once she knows you. She will take time to settle into her new home, and to help this along, we would like her new owners to visit her a few times at the centre before taking her home.

She loves to have a good run off the lead, and can live with children 14 years and over. She has a lot of potential and with time, we feel she will make a lovely companion for someone.

LINDA FEAGAN
(Supporter Relations Officer
Dogs Trust Bridgend)



Apprentice wins national award

NEWLY technician at Llandow, Adam Burniston has been named Skillnet Welsh Apprentice of the Year, at the inaugural Quality Skills Alliance (QSA) apprenticeship awards.

The 21-year-old, who works at Ford's DG Weaver Ltd dealership in Llandow, was nominated for the award in recognition of exceptional attainment levels during his three-year vehicle maintenance and repair level 3 apprenticeship, delivered as part of the Ford Masters apprenticeship programme.

Adam was presented with the award at a ceremony in the Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff and was said to have displayed "outstanding dedication to learning" – both at the dealership and while on block release at Cardiff and Vale College.



ADAM BURNISTON.

Eugene Lowry, head of the Ford programme at Skillnet, said: "Adam thoroughly deserves this award. Throughout his apprenticeship, Adam has always gone above and beyond what is expected of him. Whatever the task, he has always been willing to offer his assistance, completing the work set out for him competently and confidently."

Loss of community services could have devastating impact

REDUCED spending by local authorities on vital community, services and infrastructure could have a devastating impact on the lives of older people, according to a new report by the Older People's Commissioner for Wales.

The report, 'The Importance and Impact of Community Services within Wales', brings together a wide range of evidence to make a strong case for protecting community services, which are essential not only to help older people maintain their health, independence and well-being, but also to support them in making a huge contribution to the Welsh economy, currently worth £1bn a year, through continued employment, volunteering and childcare.

Commissioner Sarah Rochira said: "Older people consistently raise with me the need for a greater focus on the importance of key local and community services, such as buses and community transport, public toilets, pavements, public seating, outdoor areas,

libraries, leisure facilities, community and day centres.

There is real concern among many older people that these vital services are disappearing, which will have a devastating impact on their lives.

"These services are not luxuries – they are essential to the maintenance of older people's health, independence and well-being."

"These services are also essential to the delivery of national priorities relating to prevention, citizen focus and community resilience, containing the costs upon statutory services and maintaining the wider health of the economy. These services should be seen as essential community assets."

The evidence in the report is drawn from a series of focus groups that took place with older people across Wales, as well as from a range of partners with expertise in specialist areas.

Building on the report, the Commissioner will also publish a toolkit for older people to help them to engage with local authorities and influence the decisions that affect

them, alongside guidance for local authorities to improve engagement and consultation with older people.

A number of seminars for key local authority staff are also planned, to present the case for the retention of community services, facilities and infrastructure in Wales and to discuss and agree an effective way forward.

Sarah Rochira added: "I understand the current budgetary pressures being placed upon local authorities and that difficult decisions on expenditure and savings must be made."

"It is vital, however, that as spending decisions are made, essential community services are recognised as being as impactful and as important as statutory services and older people are able to continue to access them."

"For many older people, community services are, quite simply, an indispensable lifeline and I look forward to working with our national and local governments and other key partners as decisions about the future of these services are made."

TORY AM HITS AT AMBULANCE RESPONSE TIMES

CONSERVATIVE AM for South Wales Central, Andrew RT Davies, has voiced concern after Welsh Government statistics revealed ambulance response times had worsened compared to the same period last year.

He has reiterated his opposition to any downgrading of ambulance response target.

Pointing out that in January, 59.2 per cent of category A (immediately life-threatening) ambulance calls were responded to within the target eight

minutes – this was compared to 66 per cent in January 2013, Mr Davies said: "Ambulance response times in Cardiff and the Vale haven't hit targets since February 2013 and the latest figures are extremely worrying."

"Every month, we seem to get more bad news and it is disappointing that patients continue to wait longer than they should for treatment in life-threatening situations. Put simply, that is unacceptable."

"Wales-wide results are equally poor and the only consolation is that these figures are marginally above the Welsh average."

'M.E. SUFFERERS WILL NOT MISS Atos TESTS'

THE decision by Atos Healthcare to get out early from its contract with the Government to provide work capability assessments will be welcomed by anyone who has had the misfortune to go through one.

The decision by the Department of Work and Pensions to put all repeat assessments on hold, albeit unfortunately only temporarily, also offers a welcome respite for tens of thousands of disabled and sick people.

Action for M.E., the UK's leading charity for people with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (M.E.), sometimes diagnosed as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, recently published a report based on a survey of more than 400 M.E. patients' experiences of the Atos

assessment process.

Here's just a few of the findings: Only 13.4 per cent said the healthcare professional from Atos understood their condition.

Of those allowed to see a copy of the Atos report on their face-to-face assessment, more than 82 per cent said it was not an accurate reflection of the answers they gave.

92 per cent said the process caused stress and made their condition worse. Fewer than a third felt the healthcare professional from Atos asked about all the symptoms that affected their ability to work.

Atos will not be missed. Is it too much to hope for that its replacement will be fit for purpose?

Sonya Chowdhury,
(Chief Executive, Action for M.E.)
38 Victoria Street,
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Rotarians hold early breakfast to celebrate an early St David's Day

MEMBERS of the Rotary Club of Barry and their guests celebrated St David's Day 'ahead of time' with a St David's Day breakfast in St Andrew's Golf Club, Barry, on Friday, February 28.

President Peter Battle welcomed everyone, thanking them all for their support so early in the

morning!

After a cooked Welsh breakfast prepared by St Andrew's Golf Club chef Gareth and his staff, the president introduced guest speaker Jon Horne, chief executive of Cardiff Airport.

Jon, who returned to the management of Cardiff Airport for the second time in April 2013, gave a most interesting talk on the airline industry, with special emphasis on

the changes being made at the airport, and those that he is hoping to achieve in the not-too-distant future, to make Cardiff the airport of choice for those living in south Wales.

Rotarian Phil Hunt gave a vote of thanks on behalf of everyone present, and the president thanked everyone for coming and helping to raise money for Rotary-supported charities.

Rotary has 1.2 million members worldwide who form a global network of business, professional and community volunteers.

The Rotary Club of Barry meets weekly in the Mount Sorrel Hotel on Thursdays at 6.30pm. For more information, contact secretary Phil Hunt on 01446 720000.



The Rotary St David's Day breakfast.

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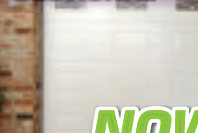
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PRICE MATCH GUARANTEE

Out and About with The GEM



by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen
Talk on Twitter –
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Neeson thriller is a Non-Stop ride to mediocrity!

EVER since the success of *Taken*, Liam Neeson has cut back on more dramatic work and instead embarked upon a career as a late blooming

action hero in the likes of *The A-Team*, *The Grey* and, of course, *Taken 2*.

He continues to plough this genre in *Non-Stop*, a thriller that sees Neeson play Bill Marks, a US Air Marshall, who suddenly finds himself in the middle of airborne drama on a transatlantic flight, where he receives a message telling him that someone on the plane will die every 20 minutes unless \$150million is paid into a bank account; the only wrinkle? The account is in Marks's name...

While Liam Neeson's decision to embrace his inner action blockbuster superstar may be to the detriment of those who enjoy seeing him tackle more cerebral fare, the undoubted thrill of seeing Oskar Schindler shooting bad guys certainly makes up for it.

However, on the basis of *Non-Stop*, it's a pleasure that's starting to wear thin, the film a tired, laughably poor thriller that is crucially lacking in anything remotely resembling a thrill.

It's a little unfair to

lay the whole blame for this sorry disaster at the feet of Neeson, but he does himself no favours in a performance that feels phoned-in, going through the motions knowing that there'll be a nice little pay packet at the end of it.

He is saddled with a character that is simply a cut-and-paste variation on the type of characters you so often find in these films – troubled, drink problems, money issues, and a fast-fuse temper, but Neeson never really grabs hold of the character nor brings any life to him, apart from a ludicrous moment of grandstanding late on where he seemingly renounces the 'violence first, talk later' sensibility that has been his modus operandi from the get-go.

Instead, he cruises by with a mix of his *Taken* character and a dash of the troubled character he essayed in *The Grey*, the end result feeling like something we've seen before, and done a whole lot better.

That said, Neeson's turn isn't the worst one in a film that manages to somehow generate woe-ful turn after woeful turn. Julianne Moore, usually so dependable, finds herself stuck in the mire of weak characterisation, often resembling a startled meerkat while trying to convey emotion; Michelle Dockery achieves the rare feat of managing to hold the same facial expression for a whole film regardless of what is happening, while Lupita Nyong'o is saddled with Grace Jones' hair and about three lines of dialogue.

Jaume Collet-Serra has thus far proved himself a director who does a neat line in mediocre genre films, and this effort does nothing to dispel that generalisa-

tion, the direction staid and lacking in urgency. The single, confined setting certainly doesn't make it easy for a director, but with some innovation and a measure of magic you can reap something far more visually satisfying than Collet-Serra provides.

The fisticuffs are edited far too choppy, and he doesn't offer any pace to a story that features a race against time element.

But most deserving of the criticism are the three scriptwriters who somehow managed to, between them, churn out something so mind-numbingly inane.

Come the end reveal, the who and the why, you'll find yourself at first wondering how, then smacking your head at the ridiculousness of it all, followed by feeling the distinct sense that the climax is both about 10 years too late and in rather poor taste.

The only truly bright spark comes from Neeson's character executing a gravity-defying gun pick-up that shows some degree of directorial innovation (albeit coupled with cliché); but those four seconds aside, the other 105 minutes and 56 seconds of *Non-Stop* are a complete waste of everybody's time.

VERDICT – *A redundant, pointless and worthless piece of work, Non-Stop will do nothing for the careers of those involved, and certainly nothing for anyone brave enough to attempt to sit through it. A series of lazy performances, weak direction, and poor storytelling come together to make a film that has absolutely no merit whatsoever. Avoid. SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: Snakes on a Plane (2006), Unknown (2011).*

Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D816.

- £2,000: 334588.
- The rollover, which now stands at £6,500, was not won this week.
- £10: 790577, 982240, 387380, 590190, 293197, 392050, 480581, 146426, 512940, 337486, 631724, 724803, 255139, 299698, 154295, 212196, 938081, 363942, 482651, 181554.
- £5: 618195, 671183, 797628, 209327, 244584, 576823, 504399, 964353, 691577, 790689, 801290, 592588, 633457, 646435, 275484, 237529, 102715, 461010, 551272, 961305, 122872, 872542, 353493, 781128, 779245, 587072, 657794, 776382, 305090, 547328, 180366, 777485, 372350, 784284, 234164, 236931, 543741, 595899, 515070, 373271, 182264, 549167, 441125, 468775, 643347, 220788, 787409, 383913, 247051, 800652, 131525, 913631, 157416, 361251, 675592, 646103, 276217, 679912, 135876.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

Valeways walks

ON Sunday, March 9 at 2pm, 'The most southerly point in Wales', starting at Fontygary car park.

On Tuesday, March 11 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at Cosmeston Country Park, outside the visitor centre.

On Thursday, March 13 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at Rhoshop railway station car park.

On Sunday, March 16 at 2pm, 'Borders and Battlefield', starting at the Green Down Inn, St Georges.

Heartfelt musical

MURCHFIELD Community Cinema's next screening is *Sunshine on Leith* (PG), a jubilant, heartfelt musical about the power of home, the hearth, family and love.

Doors open at 7pm on March 8 at the Murchfield Community Centre, Sunnycroft Lane, Dinas Powys. Tickets £5 on the door.

Fibromyalgia support

THE next meeting of the Vale of Glamorgan Fibromyalgia support group is on Tuesday, March 11 at 11am-1pm. Call Gaynor for more details on 01446 733315.

Castle talk

THE next meeting of Dinas Powys Local

Party time 1920s style!

WELSH tenor Wynne Evans will host a 1920s Great Gatsby-themed ball for the Tenovus cancer charity on March 28 at City Hall, Cardiff.

He performed alongside fellow patron Rob Brydon at the charity's 70th birthday celebrations last year, and will mark his first year as a patron by taking the microphone to entertain the party-goers.

He said: "I'm a big fan of the 1920s, so I'm sure it's going to be a fun night, and we've got lots of surprises I've been told, but you'll have to get your ticket to find out what they are!" he said.

"I haven't decided on my outfit yet but I've always been told I look good in pinstripe, so it's either that or just a feather-boa - you'll have to wait and see!"

For full details, visit www.tenovus.org.uk or call 029 2076 8860.

WHAT'S ON - in brief

History Society will be on Tuesday, March 11 in Kynance Hall at 7.30pm, with a lecture by Richard Britton on 'Cardiff Castle'.

An admin fee of £3 for non-members and £1.50 for members will be charged. Visitors welcome. Contact Betty Williams on 02920 513524 for details.

Lent films
ALL SAINTS Church in Victoria Square, Penarth, is hosting Lent discussions focused on films, on Wednesdays (12 noon-1.45pm and 7.15pm-9pm).

Four films will be discussed: *The Mission* (March 12), *Les Misérables* (March 19), *Shadowlands* (March 26) and *Life of Pi* (April 2).

Admission is free, and tea and coffee will be available.

Antiques fair

THERE will be an antique and collectors' fair on Saturday, March 15 at Cottrell Park Golf Resort (on the A48 at St Nicholas) from 10am-4pm. Admission £1.50.

Billy Liar in Dinas Powys

THE Players are rehearsing Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall's 1960s tale of northern life, for their three-act play *Billy Liar* at the Parish Hall, Dinas Powys, at 7.30pm on April 10, 11 and 12. Less than dedicated to

his job of undertaker's clerk, bored with his working class family background, 19-year-old Billy Fisher takes refuge in his own invented world.

Andrew Gibbons takes the lead role with Nicky Marsh and Tara Williams as his much lied-to girlfriends. The group also welcomes two other young actors Natalie Eddins and Dave McCann, both acting with the Players for the first time.

Longer established group members are Sue Gibbons, Graham Russell and Ann Croom, who first appeared in *Billy Liar* as grandma 50 years ago this year, together with Eileen Carrier who stage managed that production and is now once again directing for the Players.

For tickets, telephone 02920 512868, or 02921 406168.

Choir concert

BRIDGEND Male Choir's next concert will be at Cowbridge Leisure Centre on April 4 at 7.30pm.

Also appearing are Mike Doyle and Jodi Bird of the Vale, a talented soprano.

Tickets are available from newsgagents WG Davies, High Street, Cowbridge and the News Shop, Dunraven Place, Bridgend.

The choir is moving from its present rehearsal venue to Oldcastle primary school, South Street, Bridgend on Thursday, March 13 at 7pm, and visitors and new members will be welcome.

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Mark Llewellyn
Evans in Naples.

Mark and Will won Florida audience

PENARTH bari-tone Mark Llewellyn Evans has returned from Naples, Florida, where he performed a benefit for the American charity, TAPS.

Renne Relf, who lost a close member of her family in Afghanistan, recently organised a fundraising event and invited Mark to be the main attraction.

He was in Miami two years ago, singing for the same charity, and has been asked to make a return visit to Florida. TAPS want the event to be even bigger next year, and over half of the people that attended have already booked their tickets.

Mark was accompanied by a young Welsh guitarist, Will Havard,



Will
Havard

from Penarth, who is in his final year at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. He has been playing for Mark since his last album, 'This Man's in Love', was issued and Will is at his side at most of his gigs.

Mark was invited onto the Fox Breakfast show, with Renee,

where he surprised them by singing part of one of his most popular songs, 'Tell my Father' which was first recorded as a fundraiser for The Welsh Guards.

Will was a pupil at Ysgol Gyfyn Bro Morganwg, His proud parents are Phillip and Christine Havard of Havard & Havard, Cowbridge.

TY HAFAN SHOPS RECEIVE FIFTY BAGS OF DONATIONS

ABERTHAW Power Station recently turned into a donation station with 50 bags containing clothes, books, DVDs, CDs, games and bric-a-brac brought in by staff for local charity Ty Hafan to sell in their shops.

"We recycle cardboard, paper and plastic on the site and we had the idea to recycle our unwanted items to help the local hospice," said Matt Boselli, assistant engineer at the site, who organised the campaign. "After Christmas,

everyone has a sort-out and we encouraged our colleagues to bring in anything that Ty Hafan would be able to sell in their shops to help fund such a worthy cause."

Ty Hafan, based in Sully, provides support to life limited children and their families.

The team at Abertthaw Power Station was so keen to give as much as possible, they even encouraged two very special visitors to the site to bring along a donation too.

Alun Cairns MP and Jane Hutt AM were on hand to help load some of the 50 bags into the Ty Hafan van.



Jane Hutt AM hands over her donation to station manager Richard Little, watched by Aberthaw campaign helpers (from left) Geoff Jenkins, Julie Rigby and (right) Mark Picton.

Nursery shortlisted for top award

COGAN Nursery School in Penarth has been shortlisted to win a 2014 Naace Impact Award for promoting learning with technology.

Cogan also recently attained reaccreditation of the ICT Quality Mark, achieved a third Millennium Award, (one of only 83 schools to do so), had an excellent Estyn inspection, won the outstanding school team of the year and appeared on ITV's Tonight programme.

Pauline Rowland, headteacher of Cogan Nursery School, said: "It has been a very busy but successful time at the nursery and I am sure everyone from the school will be eager to find out if they have won an award at the Naace strategic conference in March 2014."



Alun Cairns MP, helps Matt Boselli (right) and Mark Picton load some of the 50 bags into the Ty Hafan van with their driver, Dave Jenkins (left).

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Penarth Computer Club: TRANSPORT TO THE STARS

ONE of the ways we explore computers is to invite people to show how they use theirs.

Chairman Mike J welcomed everyone, including a visitor, and then went on to say how he uses his!

We have learned how to set up our machines and we have a grasp of most of the common programs (ie Word, Excel, PowerPoint and web browsers), according to how we work.

Some of us are interested in photography and or video and others in desktop publishing. Mike does all that but also uses his computer to have fun, which helps him to relax.

Like many little boys, he wanted to be a train driver. As usual, life didn't turn out quite that way, but his ambition is somewhat satisfied by using a train simulator on his PC. A simulation it is not a game.

You drive a train in real time so if the real journey takes two hours, then it takes two hours on the simulation.

Mike also likes aviation and to this end he enjoys a flight simulator, also in real time.

Over the years, Mike has added to these simulators with extra routes for the train simulator, and scenery and planes for the flight one.

To increase the realism of flying he has also added a steering yoke and rudder pedals.

Mike demonstrated a program called Celestia - a free program downloaded from the net some years back. It displays the universe and allows you to travel in space to all the known planets and their moons. It also allows you to speed up time.

By selecting our sun and a viewpoint, you can see some of the planets in our solar system.

Then you can speed up time and see the various orbits that the planets take around the sun.

Microsoft has a program: 'World Wide Telescope'. To download this program go to www.worldwidetelescope.org.

This is a good program but to get the best you will need to check the program requirements, as it does require a decent processor and a good

graphics processor as well.

One member asked about Google Earth, so Mike went online; downloaded, installed and demonstrated for the benefit of those who had not yet tried it.

He navigated to the questioner's address and converted to Street View to see the member's house. It's a free program.

At the last meeting, the topic of security was raised so Mike reviewed it, saying: ensure that the router password is changed from the original one and that proper antivirus software is installed and kept updated. The importance of doing this was heavily stressed.

He pointed out that when his router was installed the initial pass-

word was on a label at the bottom. It read CHANGE ME. No bigger hint could be given, so Mike changed it.

Our next meeting is on March 11, at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, 7.30 pm for 8pm. Tips (and accents) using Microsoft Word, Visitors always welcome. See penarth-computerclub.co.uk.

Howard Desmond.

Lara in the frame for top St David Award

OCCUPATIONAL therapist Lara Cowpe of Dinas Powys has been nominated for the Citizenship Award in the inaugural short list for the Welsh Government-backed St David Awards.



Lara Cowpe.

Lara, who works for Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, has raised over £70,000 for the Teenage Cancer Trust Unit (TCT) at University Hospital of Wales.

Her efforts have already seen her take part in the Olympic Torch relay in 2012 and could now lead to national recognition at the St David Awards ceremony at the Royal College of Music and Drama on March 13.

Lara said the news she was nominated came as a shock: "I was really surprised, as there are so many people doing amazing things, I really did not think I would be shortlisted. It is a real honour.

"I also heard from the person who nominated me just how many people had supported his nomination and I am really touched that people wanted to do that.

"It would mean a lot to me if I was to win. I would see it as not just a recognition of what I

have achieved, but a recognition of the people who have supported me along the way - my parents and brother, my boyfriend, family, friends and fundraising committee, Teen Spirit in aid of Teenage Cancer Trust.

Without all of these people, I would not be where I am today. "Also, I hope it will inspire more people to support Teenage Cancer Trust's work in south Wales and also for people to share their experiences of cancer. By sharing our experience, we can feel less alone, help cancer to be diagnosed sooner and help people feel more empowered to make a difference to young people in Wales who are fighting cancer."

Lara was diagnosed with cancer as a child and had to go through two years of chemotherapy, so knows first-hand how important the work of the TCT unit in Cardiff is.

She said: "In 2010, I found a lump in my neck and a biopsy result

showed it was a lymphoma. I had to have a lymph node removed and for a month, my family and I were preparing for me to have treatment again.

"Luckily the lymph node showed it was the Epstein-Barr virus which causes glandular fever. One of the things I remember thinking is that if I had had cancer, then the TCT unit at the UHW would have been there for me if I needed it. That is one of the reasons that I continue to raise money for this fantastic charity."

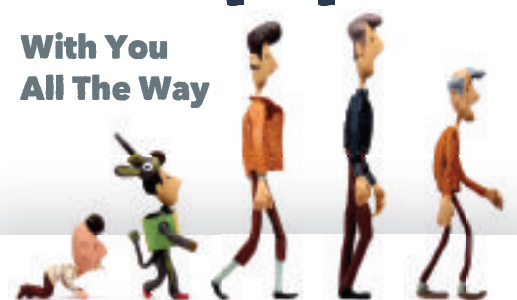
She continues to help the work of the unit by raising tens of thousands of pounds by organising events and gala nights. Lara has also set up a local committee to help others stage events and support the unit.

Maria Battle, the Chair of Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, said: "I am so pleased that Lara has been nominated for a St David Award. The work she has done has made a real difference to so many of the young people we care for at the University Hospital of Wales.

"She would be such a deserving winner and I would like to wish her all the luck in the world from everyone here at the health board, and all those who have benefited from her efforts over the years."

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Local art in store

WAITROSE
Cowbridge community art displays from March 6-20 include three large pen and ink drawings by Roy Shropshire, featuring 'Hill Head Cottages, Llantwit Major', 'The Pathway, Llandaff Cathedral', and 'The Pub Walk, Fonmon'.

Apprenticeships for jobseekers



ABOVE: The successful apprentices.

NUISANCE CALLS Bill runs out of time

VALE MP Alun Cairns' bid to bring in legislation to help prevent nuisance calls fell last week through lack of parliamentary time in the Commons.

He had introduced legislation last year to help combat such calls. The second reading was scheduled for last Friday but unfortunately earlier debates had meant there was insufficient time to consider his Private Member's Bill, Mr Cairns reported.

"I am naturally disappointed that the Bill ran

out of time but I am delighted by the response the Minister has given who has set out a strategy to combat nuisance calls, which is already under consultation.

"This includes specific action to fine those who breach the rules, ways to make it easier to opt out of nuisance calls and a more co-ordinated effort from Ofcom and The Information Commissioner's office."

Mr Cairns has also asked for anyone who needs information on stopping nuisance calls to get in touch with his Barry office.

THE Vale Council is supporting National Apprenticeship Week (March 3 - 7) by highlighting 16 successful apprenticeships in council departments.

Coun Lis Burnett, cabinet member for regeneration, innovation, planning and transportation said: "Over the last 12 months the council has significantly increased its recruitment of foundation modern apprentices, aged between 16 and 24 years old to 36.

"Of those apprentices taken on, 68 per cent went straight into employment and 94 per cent achieved the nationally-recognised qualification NVQ2 in business administration."

Coun Burnett explained: "This is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate apprenticeships and

the positive impact they have on individuals, businesses and the wider economy."

Employers interested in helping local unemployed people can contact the Employment Training Services department on 01446 704873 or 07730284137.

Council flying the flag

THE Vale Council will join other local authorities to mark Commonwealth Day on Monday, March 10, with a ceremony outside the Civic Offices in Barry at 9.20am.

The Commonwealth flag will be raised at 10am and the people of the Vale are welcome to attend.

The short ceremony will include the Mayor of the Vale, Coun Margaret Wilkinson reading the Commonwealth Affirmation, and Vice-Lord Lieutenant, Sir Brooke Boothby, reading a message from the Queen.

Wales manager knows where to get local news!

As this picture of Wales manager Chris Coleman, taken recently at Llantwit Major Comprehensive, shows, there's only one place to find out what's going on locally — The GEM, of course!



WHAT'S ON AND WHERE?

Ward advice

LABOUR councillors Claire Curtis and Anthony Powell will be holding a drop-in advice surgery for residents of Dyfan ward, Barry on Saturday, March 8 at Colcot Community Centre, Keats Way, Barry, from 11am to 12pm. No appointment needed.

Evensong for Lent EVERYONE is welcome to attend Evensong on the four Sundays of Lent, at St Paul's Church, Barry.

The services will include the

'Stations of the Cross' following in the footsteps of Christ carrying His Cross on the road to Calvary to his crucifixion on Good Friday.

The first of the special services begins this Sunday (March 9) at 3.30pm at St Paul's Church, in St Paul's Avenue.

Lent lunches

THE popular Lent lunches will be featured at Llanccarfan again this year. The first organised by St Cadoc's Church, will be on Tuesday, March 11, starting at 12pm in Llanccarfan village hall.

On Friday, March 21 St Iltyd's, Llantrithyd will be hosts at 12pm in Llanccarfan village hall.

On Friday, March 28 it will be the turn of St Mary's Penmark at 12pm in Penmark village hall and on Wednesday, April 9 St Peter's, Rhooose. SS

RNLI AGM

THE annual general meeting of the fundraising branch of the RNLI will be held at Penarth Yacht Club on Wednesday, March 26 at 2.30pm. This meeting is open to the public.

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Please come along with your CV between 11:30 and 17:00 on Tuesday 11th March at the Innovation Centre, Bridgend Science Park, Bridgend, CF31 3NA

For more details on the roles available and to pre-register for the event go to www.cgi-group.co.uk/southwalesjobs

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"If they do, they may be breaking the law (Legal Service Act 2007). The case is often thrown out and this can cost a landlord thousands in lost rental and tenants' legal costs."

"Agents do not have

the relevant training or qualifications to give legal advice. Is it worth taking the risk and not paying a solicitor for this advice? No, not in my opinion. With the average rent being £600 a month, every month delayed is a month without rent.

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Congratulations MANY congratulations to Kate from our Neath office, who has won student of the year in her legal executive exams. Kate who juggles being a wife, mother and full time Newbold employee with her difficult CILEX exams, came first in her year and on St David's Day attended the award ceremony in the Hilton Cardiff for the Student of the Year with her family.

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Spring is on the way - and the days are getting longer!

IT'S now that most people start to think about getting out of their winter hibernation and getting out and about to enjoy the lovely Vale. So dust off that bike, get those perished and worn tires, brakes and cables replaced - and get out and enjoy our lovely countryside!

Don't forget, if your bike is beyond economic repair, we can supply you with a nice new shiny one from manufacturers such as Superior and Raleigh...with the first service FREE.

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Bilingual fun day in library at Bridgend

BRIDGEND library is hosting its second free bilingual fun day between 8am - 3pm this Saturday, March 8, to mark World Book Day taking place today (March 6).

Co-ordinated by the Library in partnership with Halo Leisure and Tyfu, a Welsh Government initiative which aims to support families to introduce bilingualism to their children, the fun day will again include stories, arts and crafts, songs, rhymes and games in Welsh and English.

S4C's Heini will be returning with her fun brand of children's aerobics, while youngsters can also enjoy a free soft play session at Bridgend Recreation Centre's new JumpNGym between 8

- 10am, with multi-sport sessions held throughout the day.

Aimed at children aged 5 - 11 and their families, the event will also give the youngsters the chance to meet popular children's book and television character Peppa Pig.

Coun Lyn Morgan, cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "The first bilingual fun day held in November was exceptionally popular, so I'm sure that this weekend's event will be another big success."

"Through working with Halo Leisure and Tyfu, not only is our library service putting on an exciting free event for local youngsters, but it's also helping them to get on the road towards being bilingual - which is an increasingly sought-after skill by employers in Wales."

HORSEBOX TRIGGERS M4 CRASH

A crash on the M4 at 9pm on Monday (March 3) resulted in eight people being taken to hospital.

The collision involved two cars and a horse box on the westbound carriageway of the M4 between junctions 36 Sarn and 37 at Pyle at 21:05.

A police spokesperson said that a horse box being towed by a red Nissan Terrano came loose and was in collision with a grey Vauxhall Insignia, which left the road and ended up on its roof.

One person was rescued by firefighters.

South Wales Fire and Rescue Service reported that all those involved were taken to hospital and one woman, aged 35, sustained serious injuries.

Police said the horses involved in the incident were unharmed.

Use the waste recycling centres

DID you know that you can take small electrical items to be recycled at either Llandow or Atlantic Trading Estate in Barry, household waste recycling centres?

Cabinet member for the envi-

ronment and visible services, Coun Rob Curtis explains: "If you can't repair an item, or donate it, then recycling may be your next best option. From toasters, to hairdryers, video players or, as Keri Vilday (pictured) demonstrates, old stereos and lamps are all accepted."

Don't forget the clocks change

later this month, as do the opening hours of the Recycling Centres - both sites will be open for longer.

You can recycle seven days a week there, too, and take plenty beyond electrical items - oil, batteries, white goods, metals and wood, are just some of the other items that are accepted on site.

What's in your bin?
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Our Recycling Team put the SPOTLIGHT ON

Recycling all your small electrical items...

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Keri Vilday

In Business Update

Oil 4 Wales make Wyn one happy fan!

WALES rugby star Ken Owens took time out from training recently to present a competition winner with tickets to a Six Nations home match.

The pair of tickets were presented by the Llanelli Scarlets hooker, who is an ambassador for Oil 4 Wales, after the company ran a competition in its newsletter.

The independent oil distribution company ran a competition challenging the local community to guess the weight of Oil 4 Wales' newest recruit, baby Isla, grand-daughter of managing director Colin Owens.

Wyn Davies from St Clears, successfully guessed Isla's weight correctly, which was a healthy 7lb 11oz.

As a family-run business, Colin was eager to introduce the latest member of the Oil 4 Wales team to customers through the company newsletter. He said: "I am so proud of my granddaughter, Isla, and thought a competition would be a great way to acknowledge her birth. It's a company joke that I will have her answering the office phones by Christmas."

"Working with the community is very important to us, as is supporting Welsh rugby. The competition was a great way to give someone the chance to watch Wales play at home. We hope Wyn enjoys the stadium and fingers crossed for a positive result."

On receiving the tickets, Wyn said: "I'm really chuffed to have won the competition. I will be taking my partner with me to the game and treating her to a nice meal beforehand so it should be a great day."

"I'm a big rugby fan, so it's always enjoyable to be able to support the



boys in red and I'm really thankful to Oil 4 Wales for giving me the opportunity to do just that."

As the oil brand for Wales, Oil 4 Wales has a strong affiliation with Welsh rugby and its current ambassadors include kicking coach Neil Jenkins, Ospreys forward Ryan Jones, Scarlets fly-half Rhys Priestland, and Wales international and Racing Metro flanker Dan Lydiate, as well as Ken Owens.

Oil 4 Wales is a family run company, which was founded by entrepreneur Colin Owens, in 2011. The company, which supplies a range of fuel services to homes, businesses, commercial premises, agricultural and retail customers, has been well supported by those keen to see the success of a truly independent Welsh oil brand and now supplies over 17,000 customers in Wales.



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Olew dros Gymru

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"I'm delighted to work with this family-run business which has the community at the heart of its operation."

Welsh rugby international Jonathan Davies - Oil 4 Wales' brand manager

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Working with the community, for the community

Care concerns focus of Vale meeting



PICTURED, above (left to right) are : Lynda Wallis chairman Vale50+; Sue Van Eijkern; Gillian Huws-John; vice-chairman Vale50+ Mike Edwards; Vale of Glamorgan Older People's Champion Coun Stuart Egan and Equality group chairman Vale50+ Jane Weldon.

THE Vale50+ strategy forum welcomed guests Gillian Huws-John, area manager Vale of Glamorgan, and Sue Van Eijkern regional director south-east Wales from CCISW (Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales) at their February executive meeting.

Their work includes regulating and inspecting services for everyone, from the very young to older people.

CCISW reviews services at both a national and a local level; and can inform the public whether services are

up to standard, suggest ways of improvements services and help safeguard the interests of service users and carers.

Some of the concerns raised were the use of 15-minute domiciliary care visits to people's homes; more dementia awareness training for care workers, and the need for care workers to have adequate communication and language skills.

For more information on CCISW, log onto CCISW website at ccsiw.org.uk. Find out more about Vale50+ Strategy forum on the website at valeopf.webplus.net.

Planes, trains and boats in model show!

PLANES, trains and automobiles are among models on display at the first annual Barry Model Show, in the Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre this Sunday, (March 9) from 11am.

Barry Island Railway Station will host the town's first model show in years, as event organiser Ade Pitman explained: "Last October, we displayed the museum's collection of model Royal Air Force aircraft, and a visitor suggested that we hold a model show."

"This Sunday's event is the result, and we are supported by model clubs from all over the

area who will be displaying their models."

Also on display at the show will be radio-controlled boats and maritime vessels, and a model railway layout in the station waiting room.

Barry at War group will be displaying model Royal Air Force aircraft.

Doors open at 11am, and entry to the Barry Model Show is free. The Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre will be open throughout the day, making for a great family day out on the Island.

Admission is free. For more details, contact Ade Pitman on 07930 87416, or see the website www.barryat-war.info.

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Saturday 29th March

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To confirm your place at our Open Day please contact: Mrs Margaret Stephens (Admissions Registrar) on 01874 615440 or email admissions@christcollegebrecon.com or visit www.christcollegebrecon.com

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Bridgend County Borough Council

Building Excellence Awards 2014



The Bridgend County Borough Council Building Control Team

*Back row left to right :
Paul Jeremy (Building Control Surveyor); Roger Jones (Building Control Surveyor); David Todd-Jones (Team Leader, Building Control); Paul Joseph (Building Control Surveyor); Cliff Bull (Building Control Surveyor),*

*Front row left to right:
Beth Flower-Jones (Technical Assistant); Brian Wallace (Development and Building Control Manager); Meryl Morgan (Building Control Assistant), .*

The categories are:

Best Extension or Alterations to Existing Home
Best Change of Use of a Building or Conversion
Best Small New Housing Development
Best High Volume New Housing Development
Public Service Building
Best Educational Building
Best Commercial Building
Best Site Agent

CATEGORY 1: Best Extension or Alterations to Existing Home

DESCRIPTION:
EXTENSION AND ALTERATIONS

ADDRESS:
SEABREEZE, MALLARD WAY, PORTHCAWL

CONTRACTOR:
DUCKETT DEVELOPMENTS

ARCHITECT:
DAVID RICHARDS

The scheme involved the construction of two side extensions and extensive alterations to the existing dwelling, to accommodate the requirements of the client, whilst embracing the spectacular sea views of the area.

Due to the exposed location, consideration needed to be given to a robust design and build, with high levels of insulation.

The previous experience of the Contractor in most types of construction brought together the extensive structural and sustainability elements of the design – to provide a functional home incorporating quality materi-



als and finishes, with particular attention paid to the internal design, including a feature glass landing and folding glass partition, spiral staircase and split level kitchen area.

The result was the delivery of an elegant family home, in keeping with the surrounding area, to the satisfaction of the owner, and to the usual high standards associated with the Contractor.

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol



THE eighth annual Building Excellence Awards were held in Bridgend on Thursday, February 20.

Organised by Bridgend County Borough Council's Building Control team, the awards are designed to showcase high-quality buildings and recognise design teams, who have overcome technical issues by developing innovative and creative solutions.

Nominations for the awards are provided by the council's Building Control surveyors, who are responsible for supervising the projects as they progress on site, through to the completion of the building work.

David Llewellyn, Group Manager, Development, states: "We are placing greater requirements than ever before on architects, surveyors and builders and, as a result of this, our buildings are of better quality, more sustainable and energy efficient, and a safer place to live and work."

To achieve this, greater skills are needed within our industry and resources should be put into training the next generation of trades people, planners, designers and architects.

The ceremony was held at the Civic Offices in Angel Street and there were eight categories of award. The winners were judged on their construction and technical building qualities.

The awards were presented by the Mayor, Coun Clive James; council Leader Coun MEJ Nott, OBE.; Coun Mike Gregory; Satwant Pryce, Head of Development and Regeneration; and David Llewellyn, Group Manager, Development and Regeneration.

The winners will also go forward to the Local Authority Building Control (LABC) awards for south Wales, which will be hosted by Owen Money (comedian/BBC television personality) on April 25, 2014 at The Vale of Glamorgan Hotel.

The winning entries from south Wales will then have an opportunity to be recognised on a national scale at the LABC National Building Awards in London this November, where they will compete against entries from the rest of the UK.

For more information, visit the planning pages at www.bridgend.gov.uk



The 2014 BCBC Building Awards are sponsored by:



CATEGORY 2: Best Change of Use of a Building or Conversion



DESCRIPTION:
BARN CONVERSION

ADDRESS:
TAL Y COED, HEOL LAS, COITY

CONTRACTOR:
ANDREW BANKS

ARCHITECT:
DAVIES EVANS PARTNERSHIP



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This former barn is located in a very difficult topographical location in a very rural area, which encompassed problems with access, services, fresh water supply, drainage issues and some difficult ground conditions.

Some of the above problems were overcome with the provision of an air-sourced heat pump within the design, alongside a very high standard of insulation, to complement the very low running costs associated with this high quality project.

The existing building has been re-built to a very high standard of fitment and the layouts are both stylish and modern and have been ergonomically designed with the elderly owner's requirements in mind.

The house has been built using some traditional forms of construction alongside a blend of very modern hi-spec materials to meet the extremely high standard of thermal efficiency and sustainability demanded by the owner. The design was to reduce the running costs to a minimum in line with those associated with developments from



the Scandinavian countries and well above the Building Regulations requirements.

Mrs Barton, the architects Davies Evans Partnership, and Andrew Banks Construction, maintained a strong/close

working relationship throughout the works with the area Building Control Surveyor, which has resulted in a very high quality development which has very minimal running costs.

CATEGORY 3: Best Small New Housing Development



DESCRIPTION:
4 NEW DWELLINGS

ADDRESS:
CROESTY FARM, 80 HEOL WEST
PLAS, COITY

CONTRACTOR:
GRAVAN CONSTRUCTION

ARCHITECT:
JENKINS GOULD PARTNERSHIP

JGA

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Best Small
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Development.

The former greenfield site was in a difficult topographical location on the edge of the village of Coity, which encompassed surface water/drainage problems from underground springs and water run-off, as well as major ground compaction and fill to prevent further settlement.

The problems were overcome by introducing a new drainage scheme, along with access drainage to support the highway to the site confines.

The detached properties have been built to a very high standard of fitment and workmanship. The contemporary layouts are both stylish and modern, and have been designed with families/end users in mind.

The houses have been built using a very high specification of construction, easily meeting the very high standard of thermal efficiency and sound insulation demanded by the Building Regulations.

Gravan Construction maintained a close working relationship with the Area Building Control Surveyor throughout the project, which has resulted in a very high quality development.



CATEGORY 4: Best High Volume New Housing Development



Winners of Category 4:
Best High Volume New
Housing Development for
construction and architecture

Winners of Category 8:
Best Site Agent -
Jeremy White

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Green, Pontyclun CF72 8AE**

DESCRIPTION:
34 NEW DWELLINGS

ADDRESS:
JOSLIN ROAD, LITCHARD

CONTRACTOR:
LLANMOOR HOMES

ARCHITECT:
LLANMOOR HOMES

This new development of 34 new dwellings on the outskirts of Bridgend consists of affordable housing and desirable residencies.

Although there were three Agents on site at different time periods, credit must be given to Llanmoor Homes that all Agents were consistent in their approach and obtained a high standard of workmanship, together with a clean and safe site.

Excellent communication with all agents and the Building Control office was maintained throughout the project.



CATEGORY 5: Public Service Building

DESCRIPTION:
NEW SCHOOL

ADDRESS:
PEN-Y-FAI PRIMARY SCHOOL

CONTRACTOR:
BALFOUR BEATTY
CONSTRUCTION

ARCHITECT:
ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES BCBC

The site presented a number of different challenges, one being a significant gradient of the land.

Another being the school was to be located at the end of a narrow lane, with the existing school being used during the build process.

From the commencement of work and the initial site meeting with the management team, the Area Building Control Surveyor anticipated that he was dealing with a very professional team who expected high standards from everyone.

The intention of this Development was not only for the use of the school's children, but



for the local community for various uses, built as the hub of Pen y Fai.

The building achieved an energy performance rate of 33 and an air permeability of 6.

During the construction, the contractor achieved all his goals and produced an extremely high quality building for the staff, children and the community of Pen y Fai to be proud of.

CATEGORY 6: Best Educational Building

DESCRIPTION:
NEW SECONDARY
SCHOOL

ADDRESS:
COLEG CYMUNEDOL Y DDERWEN,
YNYSAWDRE

CONTRACTOR: LEADBETTER, A
BOUYGUES UK COMPANY

ARCHITECT:
SCOTT BROWNRIGG ARCHITECTS

The Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen Community College will incorporate a 1,570 pupil Comprehensive School, as well as a dedicated community facility, including café, a multi-agency hub, childcare facilities and various community facilities.

Leadbetter A Bouygues UK, together with Scott Brownrigg Architects, were tasked to provide an exemplar building for Bridgend County Borough Council that was both environmentally and economically sustainable.

The high levels of sustainability incorporated in the design, to reduce carbon emissions, range from a passive design delivering a building that has in use, low energy demands, allowing maximum daylight, avoiding excessive gain



and glare, and providing good ventilation.

Additional energy requirements are offset by renewable technologies, such as Solar Thermal, Photo Voltaics and a Biomass boiler, forming a combined heat and power plant, and which is incorporated into an intelligent building management system to monitor and reduce energy consumption. These systems were also

designed to provide electrical and heating supplies to a nearby Care Home and Leisure Centre.

The design achieved a score of 89.92% under BREEAM, gaining a top rating of outstanding (5 stars) and the best certified Educational Building in Britain 2012.

CATEGORY 7: Best Commercial Building

DESCRIPTION:
EXTENSION

ADDRESS:
NATURE RESERVE, ABERKENFIG

CONTRACTOR:
ET & S BUILDERS

ARCHITECT:
HUW GRIFFITHS CHARTERED
ARCHITECT



The proposal was for the extension and extensive refurbishment of the visitors' centre within the Parc Slip Nature Reserve, surrounded by the magnificent grassland, woodland and wetland areas.

The work comprised: renewal of the existing roof structure and extension, to allow for a conference area at first floor level and a cafeteria at ground level, with viewing areas over the nature reserve.

Also a new entrance porch of glazed timber loggia construction, providing for disabled

access, and which is an interface between the cafeteria and the woodland.

The works were undertaken by ET&S Construction, who are well known in the area for high class construction and management of such projects.

Access, character, community safety and environmentally sustainability were fundamental reasons behind the need for this development, and the contractor responded by delivering a high class project.

CATEGORY 8: BEST SITE AGENT

DESCRIPTION:
JEREMY WHITE

ADDRESS:
PENTRE FELIN DEVELOPMENT,
TONDU

CONTRACTOR:
LLANMOOR HOMES

ARCHITECT:
LLANMOOR HOMES



Jeremy White has been known and associated with Bridgend Building Control for a number of years.

In that time, he has always given the Building Control officer respect and plenty of notice when requesting inspection on sites. His sites are always meticulously maintained, which contributes to the high standard of workmanship that he expects from his tradesmen.

Communication with Jeremy is clear and concise and all correspondence required, is available, so that the building control officer can issue the completion certificate with complete confidence that the project fully complies with the Building Regulations.

With the above in mind, Jeremy White is the well-deserved winner of this award.

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Vision Express – Rayner Ltd, 11
Nolton Street, Bridgend –
Replace existing fascia sign and
projecting sign.

Tondu RFC – Pandey Park
changing rooms off Terfyn
Ynysawdre, Bridgend – Renewal
of expired consent
P/10/724/FUL for storage lock-
up container.

Mr EP Wooster – 26 Birch
Walk, Porthcawl, Bridgend –
Single storey extension to side
and include land into curtilage of
dwelling.

Mr Matthew Farrant – 1 and 3
Verlands Court, Pencoed – C/U
of units 1 and 3 to provide a
restaurant/bar (A3) with opening
hours until midnight and altera-
tions to shop front.

Mr M Edwards – 18 Lime Tree
Way, Porthcawl, Bridgend –
Single storey extension to side
and change roof type to pitch on
rear dormer.

Miss Claire Lewis – 52 Maesteg
Road, Maesteg, Bridgend –
Second storey addition to rear
annexe.

Mr Lyndon Huish – 27
Kingfisher Road, North
Cornelly, Bridgend – Single
storey rear extension to provide
additional ground floor accom-
modation.

Mr A Jones – 28A Park Avenue,
Porthcawl – Dormer to rear with
two windows. Mr W Williams –
Plot 21, Porth Y Castell, Parc
Derwen, Coity, Bridgend –
Proposed alteration of approved
dwelling to include rear conserva-
tory extension.

Mrs Danielle Attard – 5
Dunraven Place, Bridgend –
Conversion of existing cottage
from mixed use amenity to com-
mercial.

Mr James and Kelliher – 17
Maes Yr Ysgall, Coity –
Conservatory to side.

Mr SC Tarr – 38 Pond Mawr,
Maesteg – Side extension and
loft conversion including front
and rear dormers.

Mr Richard Leonard-Davies –
26 Cherry Tree Avenue,
Porthcawl – Rear dormer exten-
sion, new pitch roof over existing
flat roof front dormer and
remove front wall to allow park-
ing.

Rhondda Cynon Taff CB
Council – Unit 2, Pencoed
Technology Park, Pencoed,
Bridgend – Three storey B1
(offices) development with roof
top plant and associated single
storey garage/workshop, gate-
house and security fencing.

Mr Edward Davies – Williams &
Evans, 2 Queen Street,
Bridgend – Separate units 2 and
4 and change use of unit 2 from
A1 to A2 use.

Mr Barry Evans – 7 Parkfields,
Penyfar, Bridgend – Single
storey rear extension.

Ost Energy Ltd – Foel Fawr,
Maesteg, Bridgend – Screening
opinion for proposed solar farm.
Mr Tony Ludlow – The Old
Dairy, rear of 138 Caerau Road,
Maesteg, Bridgend – Change of
use of dairy to form new
dwelling.

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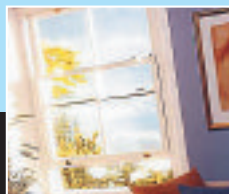
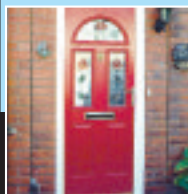
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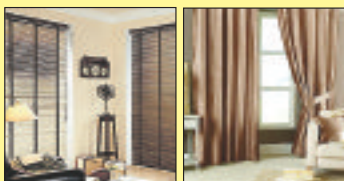
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Lord Lieutenant leads the way at the annual service



The Lord Lieutenant, Sir Paul Williams and retired Lord Lieutenant Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards.

by HEATHER MARCH.



The Lord Lieutenant's newly appointed cadets: Olivia Stickland from Cardiff and Patrick Croysdale from Cowbridge.

RIGHT: The High Sheriff of South Glamorgan, Mrs Morfydd Meredith, arrives at St Illtud's.



THE Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan Dr Peter Beck and his deputy Lieutenants and friends were at St Illtud's church, Llantwit Major recently for their annual peripatetic morning service.

This is a colourful occasion when uniforms and decorations are worn. They were warmly welcomed by the Rector, Rev Huw Butler who, with the Lieutenancy Chaplain, Rev Steward Lisk of Roath, conducted the service.

The church historian Mr Viv Kelly gave an interesting talk on the history of the recently refurbished Galilee Chapel and on the ancient stones now housed in it. Later, members travelled to the lovely setting of St Donats Castle.

Impressive outing, as Porthcawl Youth emerge victorious

PORHCAWL Youth team's recent inactivity had little impact on performance as they emerged victorious by a 21-0 margin at Bridgend Sports on St David's Day.

After a number of postponements due to the poor February weather, Porthcawl began March by notching three tries on their return to the field.

Their coach, Matthew Owen, praised his side's all-round display: "I'm really proud of the boys. We're showing signs of becoming a really good team."

"It's been hard with the weather but it was great to see the boys back without any game time and looking

sharp."

Porthcawl had the Sports under pressure from the outset, but it took until midway through the first half for them to open the scoring.

As has so often been the case this season, Ollie Banner created the opportunity with an intelligent pass that enabled Jim Needs to cross under the posts.

Banner converted to give Porthcawl a 7-0 lead at halftime.

They should have been further in front, but the final pass went astray after a fine move featuring centre Jake Thomas, the man of the match, and Jobe Owens.

Owens' constant running from No 8 was a feature of Porthcawl's play, and he was joined by Gareth Evans-Rees and Will Robinson in an effective back-row unit.

Robinson was eventually replaced by Jack Taylor, who proved a nuisance to the Sports by regularly securing turnovers in the second half.

Porthcawl decided to spread the ball wider after the break and were

duly rewarded with two more tries. Tom Matthews, usually a wing or full-back but pressed into action at scrum-half, registered the first of them, capitalising on Thomas' break to dive over in spectacular style.

Banner was again on target with the simple conversion and later added the extra points after Porthcawl's third try, a superb solo effort by Cory Gardner.

Banner provided the initial impetus to put Gardner through the gap and the exciting full-back then showed searing pace on a 50-yard gallop to the line.

There were also impressive contributions up front from Emyr Wile, Jack Williams and the 'other' Tom Matthews, the prop, in what Owen described as "an all-round great performance" by his team.

Porthcawl Youth's next fixture is a home friendly against Neath Athletic this Saturday.

HP

Rugby and reading come together in workshops

RUGBY-MAD youngsters aged 7 - 11 can team up with a parent or carer in a 'penalty kick challenge', at Bridgend Library in Bridgend Recreation Centre.

Participants will hone their rugby talents and dust off their reading skills in a series of workshops which will take place at the centre during March. All teams will then go head-to-head in a battle of both brain and brawn at the grand slam final on May 12, at Bridgend Library.

The workshops have skills les-

sons with the Ospreys, a rap master class with Cardiff-based hip-hop songwriter and producer Jason Camilleri, a chance to create comic book characters with local artist Rianne Rowlands, and fun and games with local children's entertainer and funny man Mike Church.

At each workshop, the teams will also be assigned a selection of fiction, non-fiction, rugby news articles and comics to read, and they will need to keep their eye on the ball as they will be tested on what they have learned in the final.

Skills weekend

A WEEKEND course at Bryngarw Country Park on March 22 - 23 will teach traditional and practical bushcraft skills.

For further information, contact Bryngarw Park Rangers on 01656 725155.



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RHOOSE LIFEGUARDS START THE SEASON WITH SOME IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCES



Masters Karen O'Donoghue-Harris and Melissa Downton.

THE junior, senior and masters teams from Rhooose Lifeguards recently started the 2014 competition season at the SLSA Wales Stillwater Championships at Swansea National Pool.

Over the weekend of February 15 and 16, the teams competed in a variety of races combining swimming and life saving techniques – events contested included manikin carry races without and without fins, rope throws and a number of relay events.

Junior team:

THE junior team members, led by junior co-ordinator Steve Baker, kicked off with relay and individual races in the manikin carry event. Over the Saturday and Sunday, the team put in some very impressive performances, with many of the team improving greatly on last year's times.

Well done to Kelsea Peterson for her silver medal in the manikin carry with fins event. Steve would like to thank all of the juniors for their hard work over the winter training period and they look forward to the GB Championships, which are only a few weeks away.

The junior team finished fifth out of the 17 clubs competing.

Senior team:

THE senior team, comprising five members, again put in some excellent performances over the course of the two days, recording some very commendable places in the individual and team events with members from the masters team joining for the relay races.

The senior team also finished fifth out of 17.

Masters team:

WITH a smaller team than previous years, the nine members of the masters team, managed by club captain Simon Parker, produced some great efforts in the individual and team races. Well done to the manikin relay team for picking up a gold medal and to Karen O'Donoghue-Harris for her further gold medals in the manikin carry with fins, and manikin tow events.

The masters team finished in fourth place overall. The combined results of all ages placed Rhooose in fifth place.

Medal winners were as follows:

Junior team individual medal winners: Kelsea Peterson – silver, manikin carry with fins.

Masters individual medal winners: Heddu Davies – bronze, manikin carry with fins; bronze, manikin tow with fins; bronze, rescue medley. Karen O'Donoghue-Harris – gold, manikin carry with fins; gold, manikin tow with fins. Jon Foster – bronze, rescue medley.

Junior team: Lauren Blake, Ellie Peterson, Kelsea Peterson, Kathryn Gardner, Kirby Redrup, Ruby Redrup, Jason Grice, Finn Rees, Alex Parry, Georgia Wall, Maisy James, Emily Baker.

Senior team: Riah Spickett, Samantha Blake, Alice Lewis, Simon Perry, Rhys Perry.

Masters team: Heddu Davies, Sue Blake, Karen O'Donoghue-Harris, Sarah Bryant, Melissa Downton, Jon Foster, Dominic Lee, Steve Baker, Simon Parker.

Rhooose Lifeguards Club would like to thank all of the competitors, parents and coaches who gave up their time, over the weekend. Particular thanks also to those with the club who helped with time keeping and other duties.

JF



ABOVE: The Rhooose Team.



BELOW: Simon Parker ABOVE: The Junior Team Members.



Gardening questions

THE Vale of Glamorgan Best Kept Village Competition committee is organising a gardening question time on Wednesday, March 19 from 2pm to 4pm in The Morning Room at Dyffryn House.

There are four panelists, Claire Jenkins from Bordervale Garden Centre; Rose Clay; Alex Luker, Head Gardener at Dyffryn and Clare Revera from Out to Learn Willow.

Tickets are £5 each, which includes entry to the gardens and refreshments. Contact Liz George on 01446 774880.



ABOVE: The Junior Relay Team.



ABOVE: The Masters Manikin Relay Team.



RIGHT: Ellie Peterson and Ruby Redrup.

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Woman's shock after cats are caught in 'barbaric' snare trap

A ST ATHAN woman is warning animal lovers to be careful after two of her cats just escaped serious injury after being caught in snares, writes PHILIP IRWIN.

Julie Rowan, who lives in West Camp, St Athan, was shocked when each of her two cats fell victim to the animal traps – just five days apart.

Julie's pets, daisy and Spice, became stuck in homemade wire nooses in separate incidents, and the RSPCA said the cats were lucky not to have been seriously injured.

The charity is appealing for anyone with information about the snares to get in touch.

The first incident happened on February 16, when Daisy returned with a thin wire snare wrapped so tightly around her neck she could hardly breathe.

Julie told The GEM: "I was afraid she was going to suffocate, but my husband used tin snips to cut the wire."

"Fortunately, the wire hadn't cut Daisy, but she was quite traumatised and wouldn't go outside for three or four days."

Selina Chan, the RSPCA inspector who is investigating, said: "A snare is a wire noose which is attached to a stake or heavy object that acts as an anchor to stop the animal escaping."

"The more the animal struggles ... the tighter the snare becomes. This can result in the animal dying a slow and painful

death from injury, strangulation or starvation, or being killed by predators."

Just five days later Julie's other cat, Spice, returned with a snare around his neck.

Julie said: "In Spice's case, he was lucky, because he had clearly struggled with the snare – but it had broken."

Had the snare operated as it was meant to, it could have been serious for Spice.

Selina Chan said people were leaving themselves open to prosecution if they were not "abiding by the laws and guidelines on trapping animals".

The RSPCA said it was illegal to set snares for birds, deer and badgers, but the traps could not distinguish between animals and may catch the wrong one.

Julie added: "This is a residential area so clearly someone is not targeting foxes or wild animals."

She said there were grassy areas around, but that the cats would have to travel some distance, and cross a main road to get into a really open part of the countryside.

She added: "The police and the RSPCA are involved now. If anyone else has had a similar problem, could they contact Barry Police Station, or myself, and I will pass on the details to the authorities."

Anyone with information is asked to call the RSPCA on 0300 123 8018 and leave a message for Selina Chan.

Julie Rowan can be contacted via julierowan11@hotmail.co.uk



Julie Rowan with her two cats, Spice (left) and Daisy (right).

Cowbridge girl's St David's Day concert in USA!

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE GEM recently reported that a Cowbridge girl was flying to America to perform in a St David's Day concert, and Ellen Williams is now back home after a "brilliant experience".

For Ellen, who is doing a masters degree at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, the opportunity came about when she was 'talent spotted' by a member of the Washington Welsh Society at a concert in Carmarthen last summer.

Ellen, an accomplished classical singer, has always had a passion for Welsh folk songs, and she was asked to sing these in Washington.

However, she is extending her range of songs to include Celtic folk songs from the Breton and Asturia regions of France and Spain – not difficult for her as she took a degree in French and Spanish at Exeter University!

Ellen said: "There is a strong Celtic connection between those regions, and I sang one of the Breton songs to the Washington audience."



Ellen Williams is pictured with one of the organisers of the Washington Welsh concert.

Ellen finds the folk songs, and a number have been arranged in a classical style by a Cardiff-based arranger, Jeff Howard.

Ellen said: "It was so exciting to be in America and find people speaking Welsh to me. They are very keen learners and wanted to ask me questions about the places in Wales that their family came from."

After the performance, Ellen headed off to New York – part work and part tourism – and now she is back home, concentrating on her studies at the RWCMD.

She added: "I am just finishing an EP of some of my favourite songs, and hope to have that available soon".

Brynhill golf results

COMPETITION No.16 (singles), March 2:

1st Kevin Perry 42 points (Back nine= 19, Back six = 14); 2nd Glyn Morris 42 points (Back nine= 19, Back six = 13); 3rd Joe Brookman 41 points.

There were 84 competitors; result subject to scrutiny.

CS

Monsoon weather sees Bombettes slip to defeat

WITH weather more suited to 'ducks' than rugby, Barry Bombettes travelled to play Kidwelly in this Cup clash.

The winning of the toss was going to have an effect on this result as a gale was blowing from the coast; Barry unfortunately lost it and played into the wind.

From the outset the home side utilised the conditions better than Barry, intelligently using the conditions with kicks behind the away defence. This pressurised full back O'Neill who tried her best to run back at Kidwelly. Within the first 10 minutes Barry conceded an unconverted try from a hopeful kick down the Barry right. Barry's forwards started to get into their rhythm with ball in hand, but curiously weak tackling then allowed Kidwelly their second try.

Barry then appeared to wake up and following good link up play with forwards and backs, they forced Kidwelly into an infringement in their 22. Richards calmly slotted the penalty to notch up the first cup points scored against the home side.

Again Kidwelly used their footwork to slice through the Barry defence and they scored a converted try, with the ball being kicked through stationary defenders and touched down 3-17.

Run of the game (bringing cheers from the substitutes and drenched away support) came from Hannah Perry who blasted past weak home tackling. She powered her way from her 10 metre line into the home 22, before being cynically stopped with a last-ditch high tackle.

The referee awarded a penalty try and Richards brilliantly slotted the conversion to put Barry firmly back into the game at 10-17. Curiously, no card was given for the high tackle.

Unfortunately, this was Barry's last sortie into the home half, as Kidwelly pinned Barry back with more kicks; Kidwelly only managed 2 more unconverted tries before halftime, the score 10-27. With encouragement from coaches and substitutes, the second half began. The first score was crucial to both sides, as if Barry had managed it, the result may have been different. Kidwelly played up the jumper rugby and slowly but surely forced Barry backwards.

When Barry did try and counter the odd knock on, prevented any momentum. Coleman came off due to injury and was replaced by Garner-Joel. Kidwelly scored the only points of the half with an unconverted try to make it 32-10. Their jubilant celebrations demonstrated how important the score

was. Barry, with no back replacements, had the luxury of changing their whole front row with K Jones, Horne and Phillips going on. All the substitutes brought renewed aggression and go forward ball.

Barry then had their best 15 minutes of the game as they forced Kidwelly back in the scrums impressively, taking a couple against the head. A few wrong options were again taken and with cold hands the Bombettes were frustrated and not able to score a deserved second try.

Potter again went off on one of her trade marks deep into the home half and was again illegally prevented from scoring. The final score 32-10 to Kidwelly.

Team: O'Neill, Rees, Binnie, Fox-Mabe, K Jones (c), Britton, Shanahan, Yapp, Young,

Coleman, Helmore, Richards, Husk and Cahill Substitutes: Kath Jones, Phillips, Horne and Garner-Joel.

Barry woman of the match was awarded to Nikki Yapp, and Kidwelly chose Kim Jones.

The management would like to make special mention to Fox-Mabe for playing under the weather and speedy recoveries to Cris Coleman and Kelly Binnie.

Barry were taught a lesson in using the conditions by Kidwelly. Despite all the effort put in, tackling let us down sometimes and we did not have a Plan B. We will undoubtedly learn from this slightly unflattering defeat and come back stronger for the next game.

The next fixture is at home to Penallta.

AM

Barry chess round-up

THERE were only two matches to report on in the East Glamorgan Chess League this week.

In the first division the Barry Camelots travelled to Caerphilly to play the Castles and the Gambits made the shorter trip to Penarth to take on the Barons.

For the Camelots this was a rare occasion when they played without team captain Craig Woolcock.

John Stephenson earned his first half point in the first division with a creditable draw on board five. Ken Hannah and the draw specialist Lee Davis also shared the spoils in their respective games.

Rhys Steele was the only Barry winner to ensure the match was drawn with each team picking up 2.5 points.

The Camelots remain in seventh place on 32.5 points, some six points ahead of the Cardiff Pawns who do have a game in hand. This week the Pawns play host to the Barry Bosons. A big win for the Bosons would help their title hopes and give the Camelots some breathing space.

In division 4 there are only eight teams this year. So having played every other twice the league will split into two so that each team will have a further three games.

The visit to Penarth was the final game in the division four regular season. The Gambits have had an inconsistent season. They

have proved to be strong when on the road but poor at home. So it proved again with the Gambits earning their fifth away victory by a large margin of 4.5 - 0.5.

Sam White, playing his first Gambits match of the season, myself, Windsor Lewis and Dave Adamson all picked up victories. This leaves the Gambits in the bottom half of the draw for the play offs finishing the regular season in fifth place.

There will be a short delay before the Gambits play again as the fixtures for the play offs need to be confirmed.

Unfortunately as we finished fifth we will have two home games and only one away and can only hope we do better in the home matches!

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30 pm each Monday at the West End Club, St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

PHIL JONES

Entertainment gets go-ahead

OUTDOOR entertainment could become a feature at the former Butlins site at Nell's Point on Barry Island after councillors gave an entertainment proposal the go-ahead.

Some local householders were opposed to the plans because they said live music and performances might cause extra noise and disruption.

VILLAGERS AIR THEIR VIEWS ON BUS SERVICE



The AM with Mr and Mrs Hall and Mrs Baker and grandson

FFERM GOCH residents in the rural Vale met Jane Hutt, the local AM, on St David's Day, to give their views on the new Greenlinks Bus Service.

She reported: "My constituents welcomed the new Greenlinks Bus Service which started in

January, but also had some helpful suggestions about the new service for the Vale Council, including the need for wider publicity.

"They would also like improved pedestrian access to be considered to the A48. It was a very helpful meeting which I will report back to the Vale Council."



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Aeron Close, Barry
3 Bedrooms
Good Size, Upvc DG, Part GCH
Modern Kitchen & Bathroom

£107,000 D62



Rhodfa'r Gwagenni, Barry
2 Bedrooms, 1 En-Suite
Excellent Condition, Top Floor
1 Parking Spaces, No Onward Chain

£108,500 C77

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C75
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C80
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Courtlands, Barry,
First Floor Flat, Two Bedrooms
E41
£495 PCM

Flemington Road, St Athan
Three Bedrooms
Kitchen Diner
Lawn Garden
E54
£525 PCM

Lime Grove, St Athan
Three Bedroom, Conservatory
Enclosed Rear Garden
D64
£550 PCM

The Wheate Close, Rhoose
Two Bedrooms, Walk in shower
Gardens
C73
£550 PCM

Heol Ger-Y-Felin, Llantwit Major
Two Double Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen,
Enclosed Garden
D61
£550 PCM

Beaufort Way, Rhoose
Two bedrooms, Bathroom
with shower, Enclosed rear garden
C69
£550 PCM

Cornwall Road, Barry,
Two Bedrooms, Gardens
D56
£550 PCM

Meadow View, Barry
Semi-Detached, Two Bedrooms,
Gardens
D67
£575 PCM

Beaufort Way, Rhoose,
Fully Furnished, Two Bed, Utility Area.
£600 PCM

Castle Close, Boverton, Llantwit Major
Three Bedrooms, Kitchen Diner
Off Road Parking
£625 PCM

Glyndwr Avenue, St Athan,
3 Bed Semi-Detached, Garage
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Harbour Road, Barry
Semi-Detached Victorian Property, Five
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Hillary Rise, Barry
3 Good Size Bedrooms
Spacious Lounge & Kitchen/Breakfast Rm
Gas CH, Upvc DG (2011), No Chain

£112,000 D67



Columbus Close, Barry
2 Double Bedrooms
Very Good Order Throughout
Upvc DG, GCH, Enclosed Garden

£112,500 D62



Clos Mancheldowne, Barry
2 Bedrooms
Good Size Rear Garden
No Onward Chain

£128,500 D68



Whitmore Park Drive, Barry
2 Bedrooms
Immaculate Order Throughout
Ideal First Purchase

£134,950 D63



Romilly Road, Rhoose
2 Bedrooms - Central Rhoose
Communal Rear Gardens
Very Well Presented

£95,000 D65



Murlande Way, Rhoose
2 Bedrooms
No Onward Chain
Adjacent Parking

£110,000 E51



Fonnon Park Road, Rhoose
3 Bedrooms
Backing Open Fields
Nicely Tucked Away

£129,950 D64



Benecrofte, Rhoose
3 Bed
2 Baths
Large Conservatory

£207,000 D59

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Nurston Close, Rhoose
3 Bedrooms
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£219,950 D58



Bryn Y Gloy, Rhoose Point
4 Double Bedrooms
Glorious Water View
3 Reception & Kitchen/Diner

£259,950 D64



Nyth Y Dryw, Rhoose Point
5 Generous Bedrooms
3 Receptions & Sea Views
Large Sunny Rear Garden

£319,950 C73



Fontygary Road, Rhoose
4 Bedrooms & 3 Receptions
Stunning Channel Views
Large Southerly Rear Garden

£375,000 C70

Who wants to build what, and where?

Mr Ian Howells – Greystone Lodge, Llanquian Road, Aberthin – Single storey extension to the rear of Greystone Lodge.

BT Plc – Side of 48 Stanwell Road, Penarth – Openreach Broadband Cabinet (PCP034).

Mr K Williams – Elmhurst, Porthkerry – Erection of a two-storey detached cottage style dwelling.

Mr David Williams – 10 Barriars Way, Barry – First floor side extension.

Mr Clive Pearson – The Garage, Salop Street, Penarth – Demolition of existing garage (retention of house 79 Salop Street) and construction of nine one-bedroom flats and one two-bedroom bungalow with parking plus ancillary works.

Elgin Energy Co Ltd – Land off Weycock Cross, Weycock Road, Barry – Solar farm comprising of installation of photo/voltaic panels with a total capacity of up to 7MW, one electrical substation, seven power inverter stations, four pole mounted CCTV cameras, paladin fencing and ancillary work.

Mr Haydn Pucknell – 63 Pencoedre Road, Barry – Ground floor extension to side of property.

Mr and Mrs Sweeney – 74 Port Road East, Barry – Demolition of existing detached dwelling and outbuilding. Construction of new detached dwelling with detached garage.

Mr J Gilbert – Curload, The Old Post Office, Factory Road, Llanblethian, Cowbridge – Proposed refurbishment, demolition and extension to an existing detached dwelling; comprising of a new single storey extension to the east (side elevation to replace existing garage and new two-storey extension to the west (side) elevation to replace demolished single storey.

Ms J Atkinson – 34A Plassey Street, Penarth – Change of use from art studio to two bed dwelling.

Mr Richard Anthony – Fields to the south of Brocastle, Bridgend – Removal of earth banks.

Mr Robert Freese – Old Carriageway

Stables, Hensol – Construction of eco-centre, visitors and educational building. Mr Martell Williams – 1 Lower Cwrt y Vil Road, Penarth – Loft conversion with new dormer window, rear single storey extension to replace existing conservatory, removal of former stair enclosure and alterations to new existing entrance, new pedestrian access.

Mr D Collard – 4 Cae Rex, Llanblethian, Cowbridge – Ground and first floor extension to create a larger garage and add bedrooms to a new first floor.

Mr Phillip Carling – 72A Plymouth Road, Penarth – Demolition of existing rear single storey conservatory extension. Demolition of the front and side walls of the existing single storey kitchen extension. Extension to and re-roofing of existing rear single storey kitchen extension. Replacement of existing windows and doors with new white coloured upvc units. Repositioning of internal walls and minor structural alterations.

Mr Andrew Fawcett – Court Lodge, Aberthin – Installation of solar panels. Mrs Susan Sargent – Seaview Cottage, St Athan – Retention of existing outbuilding adjacent to garage and proposed erection of a greenhouse.

Mr Michael Clay – 1 The Butts, Cowbridge – Replacing existing windows on the front elevation, with components that are identical in style and section to that of the existing windows. These windows will have double glazed units with black infill strip.

Mr Lee Peacock – The Moorings, Highlight Lane, Barry – Erection of two storey dwelling within plot with new vehicular access of Highlight Lane.

Mr Douglas Gregory-Sykes – Whitwell House, Llanbetherly – Attic conversion and external alteration including the addition of dormers to front and rear elevations.

Wales and West Housing – Bridgeman Court, Bridgeman Road, Penarth – New door opening in place of existing window and installation of new ramp to

allow for level access into the building to accommodate new scooter store.

Mr Daniel Radcliffe – Site adjacent and south of Nant Lle and north of the Farmers Lane, Treherhyngyll – Erection of a dwelling (four bed and three baths) and single garage.

Mr Graham Hutchings – Lilypot Farm, Bonvilston – Removal of Condition 16 of planning permission 2013/00861/FUL, relating to two cabins for holiday let.

Professor H Collins – 12 Paget Place, Penarth – Proposed alteration to increase the internal floor area of the property by 7sq m.

Pyke Street Developments – Elim Pentecostal Church, Pyke Street, Barry – Demolition of remaining Church Hall annex and development of five two-bedroom and two one bedroom flats with associated access and amenity areas.

Mr Stephen Hicks – Malt Barn Cottage, Higher End, St Athan – Erection of single storey garage (18ft 6" by 20ft 3") in yard at rear of house.

Vale Veterinary Centre – Units 7 and 8, Ty Verlon Industrial Estate, Barry – Internal alterations and change of use of unit from B8 to D1 (non-residential institution).

Project Management Unit – Eastern Shelter, Eastern Promenade, Barry Island – Attachment to the structure of an LED programmable lighting system and motion sensors and associated cabling.

Green Circle Sustainable Developments Ltd – Longlands Quarry, Corntown – Concrete silo.

UWC Atlantic College – Shelter, The Blue Garden, UWC Atlantic College, St Donats Castle, St Donats – Replacement of rotten timbers to support new natural stone roof tiles.

Amanda Sutcliffe – Toys R Us, Olympian Drive, Grangetown, Cardiff – Variation of condition 28(c) of 85/00615/ to allow greater range of goods to be sold.

Mr J McCarthy – Tynywaun Farm, Newton, Cowbridge – Single storey extensions to front and rear of existing

single storey dwelling.

Mr Nic Morgan – 104 Plymouth Road, Penarth – Construction of a single garage with pitched roof and storage space above.

High Street School – St Pauls Avenue, Barry – Supply and install five fixed windows and two doors and screens.

Mr D Jones – Plot 28, The Hedgerows, White Farm, Barry – Proposed alteration of approved dwelling to include rear conservatory extension.

Mr Nathan Mullett – Unit 14, Heritage Business Park, Wick Road, Llantwit Major – Extension to existing gym.

Miss C Jenkins – Plot 174, The Hedgerows, White Farm, Barry – Proposed alteration of approved dwelling to include rear conservatory extension.

Sarah Ransley and Ian Smellie – Rexton House, Wine Street, Llantwit Major – Construction of a porch to replace existing.

Mr and Mrs Simon Strong – 7 Church View Close, Llandough, Penarth – Two storey rear extension to provide kitchen/family space at ground floor. At first floor accommodation is to be revised to provide a larger fourth bedroom.

Mr Wiltshire – 5 Court Close, Llantwit Major – Reduce Ash tree branches overhanging garden.

Mr and Mrs David Lawrence – 53 Redlands Road, Penarth – Alterations to existing front garden wall to include new driveway with pavement crossover and new pedestrian gate.

Mr Kevin Jones – 7 Fforest Drive, Woodlands Rise, Barry – Proposed single storey extension.

Mr James E T Pidgeon – Conifers, Grange Avenue, Wenvoe – 1. Demolition of single storey extension and garage at north end of property. 2. Erection of double storey extension on same site to match existing gabled wing at south end of property. 3. Construction of double garage and store adjacent to south boundary. 4. All works and finishes to match existing building, itself on site of The Grange, a large Victorian man-

sion. Mr Woodward – Ty Twyn, Mill Road, Dinas Powys – Kitchen extension to the side elevation.

Mr Neil Goodrich – 19 St Lythans Road, Barry – Rear single storey lean-to extension and attached garage.

Mr Ashley Merrick – 1 Charteris Close, Penarth – Single storey living room extension 9 sq m gross external area.

Mr Reginald Forse – Reg Forse Land, Cog Moors, Nr Barry – Stable block.

Mr John Miles – 45 Golwg y Coed, Barry – Part garage conversion.

Mr David Evans – Cardiff Boat Sales, Compass House, Penarth Marina – Split the use by carrying on with one side as 'Cardiff Bay Boat Sales' and the other side to be used as a coffee shop. This includes outside space to the front of the building.

Dr Kate Skone – 105 Plymouth Road, Penarth – Widening of current gateway to create driveway entrance, to keep style of current wall and any rebuilding to be done with same bricks.

Mr and Mrs D D and H L Black – 9 Voss Park Drive, Llantwit Major – Proposed conversion of existing garage to playroom, first floor side extension and alterations to existing dwelling house.

College Fields Nursing Home – College Fields Close, Barry – Three storey extension to side of the existing building to provide a new kitchen facility.

DB and J Griffiths – Unit 13, Lower Greenway Farm, Bonvilston – Retrospective planning application for the change of use to B8 storage purposes.

Mr S Pascoe – 22 Port Road East, Barry – Proposed first floor rear extension, loft conversion, internal alterations and alterations to elevations of existing dwelling and construction of a double garage.

Mr Kurt Williams – Former Gulf Garage, Cardiff Road, Barry – Single storey extension to front and side of building.

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Newydd Housing Association
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- Gardens

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CLOS LLAWHADEN, BARRY

H4U Reference 1034908

Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement

- Four-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Wet room / downstairs bathroom
- Enclosed rear garden
- Parking

Rent £108.31 per week including service charge

CRESSWELL COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 206226

Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement

- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £97.63 per week including water charge

EDWARD STREET, BARRY

H4U Reference 208860

Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement - no pets

- Two-bedroom first floor flat
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £80.09 per week including water charge

GERAINT PLACE, BARRY

H4U Reference 210057

Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement

- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £99.55 per week including water charge

HERBERT STREET, BARRY

H4U Reference 211855

Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement

- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

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LEIGH CLOSE, LLANATWIT MAJOR

H4U Reference 235447

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- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

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LENNOX GREEN, BARRY

H4U Reference 215007

Suitable for single person or couple over 55 - no pets

- One-bedroom first floor flat
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H4U Reference 1113606

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- Two-bedroom houses (four)
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- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £86.45 per week including service charge

SOUTHEY STREET, BARRY

H4U Reference 224280

Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement

- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £102.28 per week including water charge

ST LUKES AVENUE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 245014

Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement - no pets

- Two-bedroom ground floor flat
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £85.69 per week including water charges

ST PAULS AVENUE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 245806

Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement - no pets

- Two-bedroom second floor flat
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £85.69 per week including water charges

STEWART ROAD, RHOOSE

H4U Reference 248004

Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement - no pets

- Two-bedroom second floor flat
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Water meter

Rent £77.42 per week

THOMPSON STREET, BARRY

H4U Reference 1114030

Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement

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- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
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- Gardens

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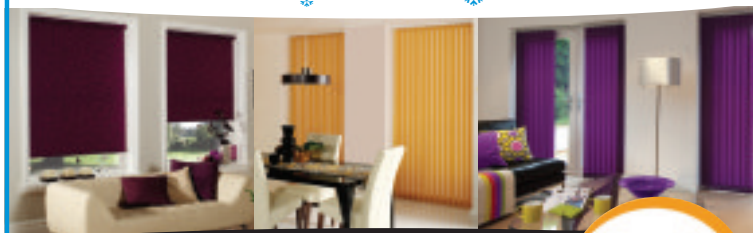
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Family Notices

ALLISTON

John

Peacefully on February 24, John, loving husband of the late Helen, much loved father of Jill, father-in-law to Martin, will be sadly missed by all. Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Friday March 7, at 2.45pm. Donations in lieu of flowers may be sent to the Cat Protection League.

TURRELL

Freda

The family would like to thank all who attended the funeral service and have offered messages of sympathy and support. To Canon David Brunning for his comforting service. Special thanks to all at Milsom House for the wonderful care and attention given to Freda during her stay as well as the support given to her daughter Sandra. Thanks also go to W A Brown & Son.

BARNETT

Douglas (Doug)

Peacefully on February 26 after a short illness, Doug, aged 88 years of Llantwit Major, formerly of Maesteg (ex-Aberthaw Power Station).

Beloved husband of the late Betty, dearly beloved father of Ian, loving uncle, great uncle and great grand uncle. Resting at WA Brown & Son, Pembroke House, Llantwit Major, until the service at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major on Friday March 14 at 10.45pm, afterwards to Coychurch Crematorium. Family flowers only please, if wished donations may be sent for either Marie Curie Cancer Care or Macmillan Cancer Care c/o the funeral director (cheques only).

SCOTT

Vera Constance Lily

Peacefully at the St Baruc's Ward at Barry Hospital on February 27, Vera of Kia Ora, Cold Knap Way, Barry.

Dearly beloved wife of the late Commander SR Scott, loving mum of John and Wendy, respected mother-in-law of Cathy and Geoff, much loved Grandie of Kate and Scott.

Resting at AG Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until her funeral service and committal at the Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Monday, March 10 at 3.00pm. Family flowers only, but donations in lieu of flowers may be donated to the St Baruc's Ward at Barry Hospital after the service.

TROTT

Heather

12 years on
March 6, 2014.
On Bossington
mountain by the sea.
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very much.
John & Family
xxx

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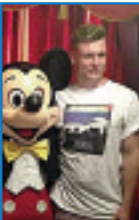
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Happy 18th Birthday

Keiran O'Callaghan
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Gaynor Evans

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NANCY DAVIDGE
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Gaynor Evans

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Llantwit Major are edged out by Llanelli

LLANTWIT MAJOR 1 LLANELLI TOWN 2

SHORN of several players due to injury and suspension, the visitors produced another spirited performance on a poor playing surface to gain maximum points, having to come from behind in doing so.

Forced to play assistant manager Gary Lloyd from the start, the Reds were further hampered when central defender Steve Berry was forced to leave the field after just 19 minutes, leading to a reshuffle with striker Jamie Evans slotting into the back four, while Scott Davies, normally a goalkeeper, found himself up front.

Before this disruption, the home side had keeper Jack Landsdown to thank for denying the Reds on a number of occasions, with a Lloyd free kick being smothered by him low at his near post, while he pulled off a fine save to thwart Jamie Evans when he burst past two defenders before unleashing a shot on target.

Ross Jones then set up a shooting chance for Liam Samuel, but again Landsdown was equal to the task, brilliantly turning over the goal bound attempt. Having survived these opening sorties, the home side countered through a long kick out by the keeper which was pursued by Paul McCarthy, and when Wyn Walters was forced out of his goal in an attempt to close him down, McCarthy headed the ball over him before a last ditch clearance by Berry off the line prevented a certain score.

This proved to be the last act for the defender whose efforts aggravated an injury he was carrying, necessitating him being replaced by Davies and the wholesale shake-up of the visitors' formation.

Their opponents took advantage of this disruption and were in the lead after 27 minutes through McCarthy, who seized on a fortunate deflection off Christian Bonnell from a pass by Lee Jones, and again Walters had to come off his line in an attempt to snuff out the danger, but this time the

home player sidestepped him before slotting into the vacant net. The lead was short-lived, as within four minutes the scores were levelled and this time Landsdown, who had earlier been the hero for his side, turned into villain when he failed to grasp cleanly a Lloyd corner swung into the goalmouth, allowing Bonnell to stab it home from point blank range.

There were appeals for a Reds penalty when Declan John went down in the box, but referee Duncan Lewis was unmoved, while Walters had to be alert at the other end by conceding a corner at the feet of Alex Allen when he was put through on goal. Landsdown failed to deal effectively with another Lloyd set piece, but when it fell to Davies, he failed to get off his shot.

Eight minutes after the restart, the visitors were awarded a penalty when Samuel played in Jak Shannan who was clearly felled in the box, and John stepped up to fire the kick into the bottom corner. Bonnell was halted illegally on the edge of the area by David Bevan, which earned him a caution, but Lloyd drove the resulting free kick well wide.

Walters did well to grasp safely low down a well-struck attempt by David Lewis, before Samuel saw his bullet-like effort pushed over by the home keeper at his near post.

A Lloyd corner flashed low across the face of goal and Bonnell was fractionally away from making contact, before in stoppage time the hosts were reduced to 10 men when Bevan was dismissed for a second yellow card. Llantwit Major: Landsdown (captain); Faux; Constant (Vincent, 85); Rees (Landsdown, 67); Robinson; Bevan; Jennings; Jones; Adamsdown (Sutch, 86); McCarthy; Allen.

Llanelli: Walters; Bonnell; Lavender; Lloyd; Evans; Berry (Davies, 19); Samuel; Shannan; J Evans; R Jones; John (captain). Subs not used: Smolka; L Jones.

DJ

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CONVERSION MISS PROVES COSTLY FOR BARRY SECONDS

BARRY Second XV travelled to Llandaff in early spring sunshine as they aim to make it six wins out of six.

Coach Rhidian Scott and manager Ken Chow were forced to draft in Barrians Lucas Davies and Chris Prosser after late withdrawals, while there were also recalls for Tomos Perry and Ashley Adams.

Facing a side vastly different to the one they played just two weeks ago, Barry started the game aggressively and reaped early rewards. The Llandaff defence was finding it hard to handle the strength and power of the Perry-Dix centre partnership, with the forwards also putting in a good shift. This resulted in a penalty opportunity for Adam Lee, which was unfortunately wasted.

Using that as incentive, the visitors pushed on and were rewarded soon after. A superb break on the right by Brad White, which would be a feature in the entire game, saw quick offloads to Perry and then Kyle Case, who raced through unopposed to score.

Lee somehow managed to strike an upright in front of the posts – his error would prove costly in the end.

This wasn't, however, to be the signal of the floodgates opening. Llandaff responded by some strong, direct running of their centre Czekaj, and it led to a converted try to put the hosts into the lead.

The management voiced their displeasure at the lack of defen-

sive discipline, and Barry responded by going on the attack. Once again isolating White with his opposing winger, his offload found Rhidian Mephram who in turn found Lee, and the fullback atoned for his early howler by scoring a try, which he converted himself.

With the scrum once again a potent weapon for the visitors, as the front row of Thomas, Hosking and Pirso destroying their opposite numbers, Barry extended their lead again, this time from Adams, who isolated the same winger with a chip and chase. Adams will collect his own kick to touch down by the posts. Lee made no mistake with his conversion.

Llandaff narrowed the deficit on the stroke of half time with a well-struck penalty after Barry indiscipline, but the visitors were still very much in the driving seat at the interval.

The introduction of Chris Prosser into the proceedings had an instant impact in the tight, but the superior fitness of the hosts, accompanied by some poor decision making by the green-and-whites, saw Llandaff score again to narrow the deficit to two points.

Barry poured forward and seemingly had the hosts on the ropes as they looked to increase their advantage, but some poor decision making in the last third, culminating in a knock-on, gifted possession back to Llandaff.

The hosts spread the ball out wide and sprinted the length of the pitch to score in the corner, and while the conversion was missed they now had a five point lead.

Scott threw on Lucas Davies and Joel Williams in an attempt to reverse the momentum. The replacement scrum-half had an instant impact, disrupting the Llandaff scrum and created several turnovers.

Eventually, with a penalty deep in the hosts' 22, the ball was spread out wide to Hamonda who beat his opposite number to touch down in the corner. Lee was unsuccessful with his conversion attempt, leaving the scores level at 24-24.

The visitors now had the momentum and came forward looking for the winning score. With Lee bearing down on the Llandaff line he decided to kick instead of keeping the ball in hand, and the result was a five metre scrum instead of a potential try.

Still, Barry had been dominant in the set piece all game and looked odds on to score, but the resultant scrum was butchered and the chance was gone.

The final score of 24-24 reflected the dynamic nature of the game, although on reflection Barry will feel that they had enough chances to win the game.

Barry 2nd XV return to action this weekend at home to Llanishen.

Team: Lee; Hamonda, Perry, Dix, White; Adams, Mephram; Thomas, Hosking, Pirso; Elsworth, Case; Goodfellow, Jones, Rolfe (c). **Replacements:** Davies, Prosser, Williams, Evans. **Man-of-the-match:** Perry.

KC

Double success for hockey club Firsts

PENARTH Hockey Club First XI went a long way to strengthening their position in the De Cymru & The Marches 1 division of the Davis Wood Hockey League with back-to-back victories over tough opposition in recent weeks.

It has not been very often in recent weeks that Penarth can attest to having deserved a win and actually got one but against high-flying Lansdown, the Vale side finally managed it.

Beginning with a strong line-up, Penarth took the early ball and kept it. If there was a Paul Scholes prize for possession, captain Mark Thomas would win it, and it was through the skipper that Chris Baker was allowed to run on and smash Penarth into the lead.

Unfortunately, Mr Scholes also has a darker side and, with that in mind, Tom Harran did his best to emulate it, ploughing through a Lansdown striker with all the grace of a new-born giraffe.

The subsequent penalty flick was tucked away by a grateful Lansdown side, albeit somewhat fortunately as Penarth 'keeper Mark Harris got a stick to the ball before it crossed the line.

A melee of action followed the equaliser, with Lansdown only kept at bay by the fine heroics of defensive playmaker Joseph Wells, before the game calmed with the coming of halftime, allowing both teams to regroup before the start of the second period.

The break appeared to suit Penarth best, as a quick solo goal from Baker immediately stunned the opposition into submission and an equaliser seemed unlikely until Thomas was sin-binned for what appeared a minor transgression.

To make matters worse for the Bears, he was swiftly joined by defensive general Wells, whose protestations also landed him on the wrong side of the umpire.

Lansdown took full advantage of Penarth's misdemeanours to pull level once again. However, once the teams were restored to parity in terms of the number of players on the pitch, Penarth again looked the better side, and Sam Wooding snuck in at the back post and seal the win for the Vale side.

Absurd as it might sound, the 3-2 result felt more like 10-0 at the final whistle and, with five tough games remaining, the win might prove to be the saviour of Penarth in a closely-contested division.

Buoyed by the victory over Lansdown, it was important that Penarth built on the success with another good

result against a Cardiff Medics side that had manhandled the Bears in a very convincing manner earlier in the season.

Once again, the Vale side started well and controlled the early possession, with the back four of Harran, James Davies, Sam Docherty and Dave Stevens transferring the ball and giving the mid-field trio of skipper Thomas, Gareth Herman and Phil Lane the chance to buy space for the forwards.

The front line – comprising Wooding, Baker, Matt Birch and Dave Kidby – constantly caused problems for the Medics' defence, and it was only a matter of time before Kidby smashed the visitors into the lead.

As the first half moved on, Penarth controlled both field position and possession but, as half-time approached, the Medics sprang a counter-attack, eventually earning a penalty corner that was converted at the second attempt after a fine save from Penarth keeper Harris wasn't subsequently cleared by the defence.

With the teams turning around level on a goal apiece, Penarth knew that they would have to raise the stakes to get the victory that their first half performance had deserved.

Once again, the visitors' passing was crisp and precise and, having put the Medics' defence under a lot of pressure, was rewarded when Lane found space at the top of the 'D' to crash the ball passed a very static 'keeper.

Kidby got his second goal of the afternoon shortly afterwards, following up after a Penarth penalty corner was saved by the student keeper. At this point, the game became very stretched, which played into Penarth's hands as they found a lot more space in the final third of the

pitch.

A fourth goal came quickly, after a superb run from the sideline from Herman supplied Birch, who proceeded to play the pass of the season – through his legs – to the top of the 'D', where Lane stood and slotted in past the hapless keeper.

The veteran then completed his hat-trick with another superb strike as Penarth pulled off a surprisingly easy win over what had been expected to be tougher opposition to cement themselves in fourth position in their division.

While the 1st XI were embarking on their winning run, however, the seconds were finding life tougher in De Cymru 2, although neither result proved to be a fair reflection of their performance.

A 5-1 defeat at Abergavenny could be largely attributed to a blinding display from the home goalkeeper, who stopped almost everything – bar a late Tom Parkinson nudge – that Penarth threw at him, while the scoreline only became unflattering to the visitors in the final period as fitness and a loss of shape at the back allowed the home side to build on their lead.

A tough run of fixtures, which saw Penarth have to face the sides in fourth, third and second place in successive games, culminated with the visit of league leaders Cardiff Medics 'A' to Barry on a rare sunny afternoon in the Vale. Despite missing a couple of key players, Penarth started resolutely, determined not to allow their young opposition an easy victory.

With returning skipper Nick Pratt and Paul Thomas alternately anchoring the midfield and the hard-running Arthur Jones and Dave Thomas providing good ball for the forwards, Penarth created as many early chances as the stu-

dent side, but pressure from the visitors eventually told, and they went into the interval with the slimmest of advantages.

Penarth's back four of Ian Smith, Zbig Sobierski, Craig Llewellyn and Paul Roberts remained dogged throughout, harrying the numerically superior Medics forwards into mistakes and frequently dispossessing them at the last moment when a break did make it as far as the 'D', but their rearguard action – and the sterling efforts of keeper Calum Grant – could not hold out forever and a penalty corner routine eventually doubled the deficit.

Despite falling two goals behind, Penarth continued to look for a way back into the game, with youngster Rory Vizard providing an additional outlet up front in tandem with comparative veterans Graeme Jones and Dave Watkins. The consolation goal refused to come, however, and the students eventually put the game beyond doubt with a screamer that threatened to take a few defensive heads with it on the way into the net.

The defeat, combined with a few unusual results elsewhere, sees Penarth drop into sixth spot overall, but with three fixtures against lower-placed opposition to close out the campaign, a return to the top half of the table is not beyond the realms of possibility.

While the 1st XI entertain Cardiff University 'A' in Barry next, the seconds make the trip west to take on Swansea City 'C' in a game where they have to be looking for maximum points.

Further information can be obtained from club secretary Dave Stevens via: d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk.

CL

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ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

An excellent performance from Cowbridge under-15s

THIS was yet another excellent team performance under the circumstances for Cowbridge under-15s against Barry, with discipline again excellent, and many forwards in the pack playing out of their specialist positions.

The physical effort against a substantially bigger pack and the fact they had little clean ball showed a massive commitment by all.

Barry opened the scoring after 10 minutes with an unconverted try but five minutes later Cowbridge appeared to have equalised when good swift passing through the back line resulted in wing Seán Davies making 20 yards and beating a number of tacklers to touchdown in the corner.

Unfortunately, the linesman signalled a foot in touch (although he was the only who thought so), so Barry led 5-0 at halftime.

Cowbridge continued to soak up the pressure from the Barry forwards but brave defence from Paddy Doyle, playing his first game for Cowbridge,

Harry Hopkins and Tomos Evans-Williams kept the home side at bay.

Astute kicking by outside half Cai Evans also provided some relief and centres Joe Nott and Dan Bunney now began to create panic in the Barry defence with some telling runs which almost led to tries.

The only weapon that Barry appeared to have was a rolling maul, which their forwards used to great effect against a much lighter pack and which resulted in their second try just seconds from full time. The try was converted leaving the home side victors by 12-0.

Outstanding in the pack were Duncan Ace, with a number of crucial turnovers yet again, and Josh Evans and Will Cousins, who put in a number of crunching tackles to prevent the opposition scoring.

In the backs, scrum half Osian John varied his game to good effect with quick passing and accurate line kicks and was ably assisted by Harrison Stevens and Sam Palmer.

ML

Scorpions chilled to the very core!

CONDITIONS couldn't have been worse for South Wales Scorpions' opening match of the season as stormy conditions greeted Oldham at Old Parish for their first fixture at their new home of Maesteg RFC.

The match didn't even get finished. On 72 minutes referee Adam Gill called a halt to proceedings as many players were suffering from hypothermia-like symptoms.

It was a shame for the 458 strong crowd, many of whom were Maesteg locals, but the rain had been pouring down from kick-off and soon what was a shower turned into a full blown monsoon making any attractive rugby impossible.

Some great defensive efforts from the Scorpions kept Oldham out for the first 20 minute. The deadlock was finally broken when Dale Bloomfield went over in the corner and Sam Gee converted.

The more experienced visitors had a lot of the ball in the first half but couldn't do much with it. The ball got greasier and the pitch got muddier, and the Scorpions' backline refused to relent again until the 36th minute with Chris Vitalini and Barrie Phillips especially excelling.

At that time, the Roughyeds doubled their lead when Adam Files forced his way through with Gee again kick-

ing the extras.

You also can't discredit Oldham's forward pack as the home side didn't break in that first half despite a valiant Scorpions effort. The nearest Scorpions got to scoring was when Connor Farrer tried to chase his own grubber five metres from the line and forced Roughyeds to knock-on; and just as the scrum was forming, the half-time hooter sounded.

It took just three minutes of the second half for the Scorpions to get on the board. After a fine passing move, Alex Jones scored in the corner but Paul Emanuel failed to land the tricky conversion.

However Emanuel made up for that by kicking a 40-20 but again tough defence prevented the Scorpions from scoring from their rewarded set of six.

It took Oldham 10 more minutes to work their way up to the Scorpions' line and when they did, Stephen Niel touched down in the corner. Lewis Palfrey failed to convert but added a penalty on 63 minutes to give Oldham an 18-4 lead.

Roughyeds knocked on from kick-off and from the scrum, the workaholic Farrer was again denied, being held up over the line.

When both physios were called on to treat a number of players, the referee ended things and the Rugby Football League will decide later this week whether the result will stand.

IG

YOUNGSTERS VISIT CITY



DURING February half term, children and young people from Barry enjoyed a fantastic two day Soccer Camp and experienced life at Premier League club Cardiff City FC.

The Soccer Camp funded by Barry Communities First was delivered by PG10 Coaching and Wales legend Neville

Southall, with the focus to increase participation in sport, promote health and an active lifestyle.

The children who attended the coaching day were taken on a trip to Cardiff FC to have a tour of the Cardiff City stadium.

The day started with the children taking a stadium tour, going behind the scenes at the City Stadium visiting the dressing rooms, experiencing the fantastic stadium

and learning about the great players and the memorable matches that have made Cardiff FC such a unique football club. All children that attended also had free tickets for the Wales v Iceland match.

For more information on opportunities in the Vale please contact 0795270870 or email petegriff10@hotmail.co.uk or visit www.pg10coaching.co.uk or Twitter @petegriff10.

Sun shines on the opening round at Llandow Kart Club!

THE opening round of Llandow Kart Club's 2014 season was blessed with a rare dry and sunny day amidst the winter storms and rewarded those that turned out with some close racing.

In all, 56 drivers got their campaigns underway, with some old faces in unfamiliar surroundings, doing battle with club stalwarts determined to show the whip-pennappers that they still had a trick or two up their sleeves.

Although only three Bambinos were on track - with regulars Ella Stevens and Nathan Browning joined by newcomer Max Hall - there were a few changes for the youngest competitors to deal with, starting with a new format and the challenge of running on the full Llandow circuit for the first time.

The category's timed 'events' ran for eight minutes plus one lap, with some hasty recalculation of target times required to determine which award each merit-ed.

While Stevens was unlucky to suffer two DNFs in her four outings, she - like her rivals - did enough to merit a gold medal. Hall, meanwhile, belied his 'new boy' status by posting the fastest lap of the day.

Cadet numbers were a little down on their 2013 highs - a result as much

of graduations as anything - but that did not mean that the expected frontrunners had life easy. Despite that, the results will show that reigning champion Ethan Ling dominated the Honda side of the field, while Shay Keough (IAME) and Max Fenlon claimed three wins from four in their respective classes.

Keough missed out on a clean sweep when Joshua Davis beat him to the line by 0.1secs in the final, while Fenlon was denied a similar feat by Connor Kearney's success during the heats.

Harry King and Stuart Ferguson completed the Honda podium, with Thomas Nippers (IAME), Kearney and Shayne Clarke (both Comer) doing likewise in the others classes.

Junior Honda featured five runners, including novice Jack Bligh, but proved to be the domain of Celtic Challenge champion Kristian Prosser, who claimed victory in all three heats before cruising to an 11 second win in the final.

Behind him, the order was largely the same, with only Patrick Hill's heat three DSQ denying him a quartet of second places. Bligh took a creditable third, with Alex Wilkins and Sofia Nardone next up.

Like Prosser, Rob Ellis remained unbeaten in Junior Rotax, sweeping the field to make a strong start to his championship defence. Behind

him, David Spiller led the pursuit, eventually claiming runners-up spot in all four races. Tom Croydon completed the podium in the final, but not before MiniMax graduate Ceran Sokhi had taken his own turn in P3 during the heats.

Lone MiniMax runner Riley Phillips, meanwhile, made a strong impression throughout the day.

Junior TKM numbers rose to seven, but it was the familiar name of reigning club champion Yousuf Ashraf at the head of the timesheets in all but one outing. Hugo Holmes interrupted the sweep, winning heat three, but could not find quite enough to repeat in what turned out to be an epic final, eventually crossing the line 0.1secs shy of Ashraf.

Sam Johns completed the first podium of 2014, but had had to share third places with Alex Rees and reigning Cadet Comer champion Tom Rawlings in the heats.

Senior Honda made a positive start to the new season with seven runners on track, but there was a new name to the fore, with former Junior Honda powerhouse Ben Stevens making an impressive debut by sweeping all four races.

The interloper - who earned his second con-

secutive 'Driver of the Day' award - did not have it easy in the final, getting involved in a first turn accident that called for a restart, but had enough in hand to deny fellow junior graduate Cristiano Nardone and veteran Paul Saunders in the main event.

Monty Gorringer had looked set for a possible podium prior to a late technical black flag, allowing Jack Hixon into fourth spot.

With numbers a little down in Senior Rotax, and some regulars AWOL, the door was open for new faces to make an early mark at the sharp end.

Gareth Taylor and Sebastian Hutchinson were not about to waste the opportunity and, after Taylor had claimed the heats battle by two wins to one, the pair waged battle in the final, before Hutchinson eventually came out on top by just over a second.

Scott Rose completed the podium in the main event, having shared the spot with Tom Stride and Dilip Singh in the qualifying races.

Round two of the 2014 championship takes place at South Wales Karting Centre on Sunday, March 16.

RESULTS:
BAMBINO - Gold Award Nathan Browning

(CRG), Ella Stevens (CK), Max Hall.

CADET HONDA - 1. Ethan Ling (Project One), 2. Harry King (Project One), 3. Stuart Ferguson (Project One).

CADET COMER - 1. Max Fenlon (RK Birel), 2. Connor Kearney (Zip), 3. Shayne Clarke (Zip).

CADET IAME - 1. Joshua Davis (Zip), 2. Shay Keough (Zip), 3. Thomas Nippers (Zip).

JUNIOR HONDA - 1. Kristian Prosser (7Kart), 2. Patrick Hill (Wright), 3. Jack Bligh (7Kart).

JUNIOR TKM - 1. Yousuf Ashraf (Jade), 2. Hugo Holmes (Tonykart), 3. Sam Johns (Jade).

JUNIOR ROTAX - 1. Rob Ellis (Kosmic), 2. David Spiller (Alonso), 3. Tom Croydon (Gillard).

MINI MAX - 1. Riley Phillips (Kosmic).

SENIOR HONDA - 1. Ben Stevens (7Kart), 2. Cristiano Nardone (7Kart), 3. Paul Saunders (7Kart).

SENIOR ROTAX - 1. Sebastian Hutchinson (Tonykart), 2. Gareth Taylor (Tonykart), 3. Scott Rose (CRG).

BEST NOVICE - Jack Bligh (Junior Honda).
DRIVER OF THE DAY - Ben Stevens (Senior Honda).

CL

Rhys ruled out of the Cheltenham Festival

BRIDGEND'S Rhys Flint will miss the Cheltenham National Hunt Festival meeting after being hit with a seven-day ban after winning the £28,475 Totepool National Spirit Hurdle at Fontwell.

Making all the running on Kayf Moss, a winner of its previous two races at Leicester and Ffos Las, and trained by his father John Flint, the six-year-old bay gelding held on by a head to beat the fast-finishing Meister Eckhart at odds of 16-1.

However, the stewards found Rhys guilty of overuse of the whip in a frantic finish and banned him from race riding between March 9 and 15. If that wasn't enough punishment, he was also fined £100.

He will now miss the chance of riding Kayf Moss in the Coral Cup at Cheltenham.

BRACE'S 93-1

DOUBLE
Pyle's David Brace OBE had a 93-1 double when his BrangintheBranston

(20-1) won the club members' race under Tom David and his Cock Of The Rock (7-2) ridden by Sean Bowen took the club members' novice riders' race at the recent Countryside Alliance Club (Wessex) Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Badbury Rings.

Mr Brace, who won the national owners' championship last season, is going great guns again this term.

DOUBLE FOR OGMORE'S NICK
Ogmore's Nick Williams took the riding honours at the rain-soaked Curre & Llangibby Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases on Sunday when riding a double with Bobs Law (Members) and Colley Row (Maiden 2 part 1).

However, Bobs Law could be considered a lucky winner as Doc Wells, partnered by Tom Faulkner, ran out at the last obstacle when putting in a strong challenge.

Bobs Law was a first winner for trainer Michael Bowen, son of leading Welsh National Hunt trainer Peter

Bowen. Williams' other success came in a division of the open maiden race when Chris Williams' Colley Row came home four lengths ahead of Soutine.

Beth Roberts' Chesnut Annie had her seven rivals soon struggling when winning the ladies' open race by a distance from Putiacca Bella after Teenage Kicks came down at the last fence.

Chesnut Annie, who was winning for the 37th time, was partnered by Brodie Hampson, who the day before had finished third in a flat race in France!

The men's open race went to the Tommy Weston partnered Over The Phone who won by 10 lengths from the Magherally Man; Rosies Peacock was a further four lengths away in third place.

Anna Dalton, riding Mr C B Compton's Mr McGregor, took the restricted race by three parts of a length from Star Of Massini. Mr McGregor is trained by Anna's mother Heather a former leading rider.

Llanharan's Evan David rode a good finish to take the confined on Mr David Morgan's Chosen Milan and Bridgend's Rachel Leyshon won a division of the maiden on Lee Power's Grianan Fidh. Cowbridge's James Tudor won another division on Credit For Life which is trained by Amber Griffiths.

The second Curre & Llangibby fixture at Howick will take place on March 16 (first race 12.30); entries close on March 9.

BRIAN LEE

Club's fun triathlon

BARRY Beavers Disabled Swimming Club will be holding its second mini fun triathlon on Sunday, July 6, starting from Barry Leisure Centre at 12.30pm, and is open to individual competitors and teams.

The event consists of a 40-length swim, 10km bike ride and a 5km run. The entry fee is £10 for individuals and £15 for groups.

The event will raise money for the swimming club to help towards the cost of pool hire and will fund buses to take the swimmers to galas across south Wales. The club is run by volunteers.

Application forms for the triathlon can be obtained from Sarah Davies, telephone 01446 421632 or email sarahdavies2110@gmail.com.

National success for Barrivale players!

BARRIVALE pair, Mark Roderick and Noelle Bond, won the Welsh Bridge Union Mixed Pairs Championship, played at Llandrindod Wells during the weekend of February 23/24.

Latest results from Barrivale Bridge Club, February 25: 1st Kay Dyer & Mark Roderick 59.38%; 2nd Mike Close & Denis Mottram and Jane Brook & Noelle Bond 55.73%. Vivien Liles and Hilary Laurence won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale, if you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

MB

Age Cymru and Tenovus are named the official charities at golf Open

AGE Cymru and Tenovus have been announced as the official charities of The 2014 Senior Open Championship presented by Rolex, which will be played at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club in Wales for the first time from July 24-27.

As part of an unprecedented initiative for The Senior Open Championship, the two charities will each benefit from income generated via ticket sales, as well as having the opportunity to raise further funds and awareness through their association with the Championship.

A spokesperson said that each char-

ity's name acts as a bespoke promotional code which can be used by spectators when purchasing tickets via www.senioropengolf.com or the Championship ticket sales hotline 0800 023 2557.

For each ticket sold in advance of the Championship week using the special promotional code, a £5 donation will be made to the chosen charity, giving their supporter network and general spectators the chance to support these two Welsh causes, as well as watch some of golf's most iconic names such as Bernhard Langer, Colin Montgomerie, Tom Watson and Welshman Ian Woosnam in action at Royal Porthcawl.

Honda's CR-V is fighting to stay on top

FUN and power. Two words that, for me, best describe the Honda CR-V.

Fun because this all wheel drive vehicle can tackle most terrains, while the 150bhp 2.2 litre diesel unit has enough oomph to travel from 0 to 60mph in a little over 10 seconds.

I'm testing the top-of-the-range £33,000 plus 2.2-litre four wheel drive version.

As I look down the side panels, I'm instantly struck by how this fourth generation model reminds me of the BMW X5. It looks grander, more striking and capable than its predecessors. I like the polished metal finish.

In fact, this sports utility vehicle (SUV) is fitted with a number of luxury features including the power tailgate that makes light work of closing the boot, extremely easy to fold rear seats and a panoramic glass roof, all of which you can see in the video at testdrives.biz.

My test takes in Dorset, Hampshire and Oxford. A selection of artists have opened their studios and so it is an ideal opportunity to go and visit them.

by Tim Saunders

Interestingly, the route is pretty much a straight run from Oxford down to Dorset and we are able to take in an average of three studios a day, racking up just over 500 miles and returning at best 39.7mpg at a constant 56mph.

As temperatures drop to minus figures in the winter months, it is reassuring to be driving a vehicle that is fitted with permanent four wheel drive, especially when visiting the remote parts of the country that our trip takes us to.

In fact, on a number of occasions we find ourselves parking in farmers' fields to visit the studios and the CR-V makes extremely light work of such requests.

Hill descent is a useful feature too, enhancing its capabilities when tackling such scenarios.

The black leather interior is comfortable and the power front seats are easy to operate, although the driver's seat does seem to remember a different position on locking the vehicle.



The Honda CR-V in action.

This is no doubt down to me not setting my desired position on the memory function. Similarly, my wife and I find the radio frustrating because it refuses to play our favourite station, bypassing it at every request.

The automatic gearbox is smooth. The centre

armrests front and back, together with the blacked out rear windows, add to the hint of luxury.

Parkers, the car experts, say: "The British-built Honda CR-V is now in its fourth generation. The five-seat SUV has been in production since 1995 and has proven incredibly popular for the Japanese manufacturer.

"Indeed, five million CR-Vs have gone to happy homes around the world. Its blend of practicality, reliability and efficiency has stood it in good stead, but competition from the likes of Mazda's CX-5, Nissan's X-Trail and even BMW's X3 means Honda really has to be on its toes to retain its share of the market."

Honda CR-V 2.2 iDTEV EX 4WD Auto 2012 onwards,

Facts at a glance:

New price range: £21,735 - £35,465;

0-60mph: 10.6secs;

Top speed: 118mph;

Economy: 39mpg;

Power: 150bhp;

Watch the video at www.testdrives.biz.

Barry RFC battle to get the points in the capital

IDEAL playing conditions greeted Barry for their visit to Cardiff last Saturday to face Llandaff North.

Little wind, no rain and a soft playing surface gave both sides the opportunity to parade their skills and demonstrate a commitment to open rugby.

The visitors started with intent and were soon on the offensive. They spread the ball wide and kept play in the Llandaff North's half for extended periods. It came as no surprise, therefore, when Scott slotted over a penalty to open the scoring after 25 minutes of play.

With their backs to the wall the home team were adjudged to have made an illegal high tackle, which resulted in a yellow card.

Barry continued where they left off last week and exerted considerable pressure at the set scrums. As they parked on their opponents' line, Evans was able to power his way over in the corner.

A lack of concentration allowed Llandaff North to reach the Barry line and earn themselves a penalty to reduce the deficit to five points at the interval. This score was totally against the run of play.

However, after 10 minutes of the second half, Barry appeared to have sewn up the match. In a scramble underneath their opponents' posts Ryan pounced for a try which was easily converted by Scott.

The Llandaff outfit were not taking this reverse lying down. They engineered a good pushover try, but their kicker contrived to miss the conversion from almost in front of the posts.

Back came the visitors and after contesting a ball in midfield, they were awarded a penalty fully 45 metres from the sticks. Scott coolly struck an excellent penalty to ease the Barry nerves.

Fortunes swayed back and forth until the home side again reduced the deficit by a successful penalty attempt.

Barry seemed to be

attracting the wrath of the referee with two yellow cards after 25 minutes or so; neither decision seemed to warrant such a harsh penalty.

Now down to 13 men Barry were put under pressure and conceded a late pushover try which remained unconverted. Barry played well throughout and when their ranks were depleted they refused to accept that defeat was inevitable.

The final score of 18-16 was testament to their skill and determination.

A notable feature of Barry's play was that there was correct alignment in both attack and defence with every player knowing his role in the scheme of things.

Barry: Ryan, T.Scott, Probis, O'Sullivan, Cordle, E.Scott, Lee, O'Sullivan, Evans, Hollister, G.Jones, Oaten, G.Scott, Poole, Jones @. Replacements: Williams, Gallivan, Lundy.

The next game is home against Nantymoel on Saturday, March 22.

CO

NEW KIT FOR UNDER-13s



ABOVE: Barry Town under-13s would like to thank the Barry Town United Football Committee, Gavin Chesterfield and David Cole, for their new kit. The under-13s are looking for match kit sponsors; if you can help please contact Carl Hellerman on 077936 52300.

Dinas Powys FC battle the odds against Undy Athletic

THIS was a gutsy display by Dinas Powys FC against the odds, having to play the last 30 minutes of the game against Undy Athletic with 10 men after James Marr was shown a straight red card for a late tackle, which most people thought only deserved a yellow.

Undy started the game well and were soon pressuring the Dinas defence and a sweeping

move involving James Barnes, Andrew Lacombe and Mike Jones ended with Jones colliding with Dinas keeper James Curtin.

The ball ended up in the net but the referee awarded Dinas a free kick, with Curtin needing some treatment before he could continue.

Further chances came Undy's way but their robust approach work kept giving away free kicks; however, Dinas had James Marr to thank for the second week running for clearing an effort from Barnes off the line.

The Dinas defence were in fine form all game with Marr, Bruce, Penikett and Bloxham breaking down the wave of attacks from the visitors time and time again.

Dinas began to get some possession and a determined run and shot by skipper Paul Dawes was deflected off target and cleared, and another good run by Tony Herrin to cut the ball back to Bruce who put in a dangerous looking cross but no-one could get a touch and the ball ran out for a throw-in.

On the 22 minute mark the visitors thought they had taken the lead when Marcus Power laid the ball off to Gyles Thompson, who hit a powerful shot which just skimmed the crossbar, and a fine double save by Curtin from Power kept the Dinas goal intact, although he needed the magic sponge again after this.

Dinas had a good chance when Paul Penikett played Joe Briscoe in on his weaker left foot but his shot was too weak to trouble Smallcombe.

However, Dinas finally got the breakthrough when a superb flowing move found skillful mid-

fied player Marc Bonet and he advanced into the box to beat Smallcombe from eight yards to take the lead on 37 minutes.

The visitors came very close to equalising when a cross from Andrew Lacombe found Power but his header clipped the top of the bar and went over. This was the last action from the first half.

The second period started with a half-chance for Dinas; a Nicky Bruce free kick was volleyed by Tony Herrin but was wide of the right post, and in the 12th minute of the half Dinas were grateful to Curtin again for a fine save from Jones.

The play was more even at this stage with Dawes, Herrin, Parsons and Bonet battling for possession until the sending off of James Marr, Dinas dropping Parsons into the right back slot and although for 10 minutes they battled really well, the extra man began to tell and wave after wave of attacks came from Undy with the Dinas back four in superb form to keep them out.

Dinas brought on fresh legs with Dimitri Fallas replacing Paul Penikett and Luke Swaffield

replacing Briscoe. The pressure was still mounting so Dinas played their last card, Carlos Indjai being introduced for Bonet.

But just when Dinas thought they had hung on for all three points a shot came in which deflected off a Dinas boot giving Curtin no chance for 1-1 in injury time, and Dinas had cause to be grateful to their fine young keeper for a superb save from Barnes in the dying seconds to at least earn themselves a point.

Dinas are in action again away to Cardiff Met University on Thursday, March 6, with a 7pm kick off.

Squad: 1 James Curtin, 2 James Marr, 3 Nicky Bruce, 4 Dave Penikett, 5 James Bloxham, 6 Tony Herrin, 7 Paul Dawes (c), 8 Connor Parsons, 9 Paul Penikett, 10 Joe Briscoe, 11 Marc Bonet, 12 Luke Swaffield, 14 Ryan Garland, 16 Carlos Indjai 17 Dimitri Fallas.

Dinas Powys FC require a 1st team goalkeeper; if interested please contact manager Dave Penikett on 07816 929727.

PK

CALLING ALL CLUB OFFICIALS!
The GEM welcomes your reports, news and other items of interest - email us at: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Atoms show plenty of spirit

BARRY Atoms started off initially too slow and gave everything away against Cowbridge, making no gains and conceding far too much territory.

We looked like a side that had not played in a year, let alone a couple of months. That unfortunately does seem to be the way; far too often we have not got our heads in the game.

Once we got over that first 10 minutes we started to get into it. We made ground, went through them and got the ball out wide and a try was finished off by

Iestyn E.

It was agreed to play four quarters of 15 minutes, so after the first we were only two tries to one down. It has to be said that the side we came up against were well drilled and played some great flowing rugby.

The second quarter was again dominated by Cowbridge as they scored three unanswered tries, and although they took the second there were glimpses that the boys weren't prepared to lay down and take it.

Now it was time to shine, and in the third quarter we scored tries through strong play, skill and

working as a team. Tries from Zak (2), Rory and Jack R meant that parity had been restored.

Unfortunately the last quarter was a step too far as we conceded four tries and finished out the game losing 9-5. The boys had a good run out and played over an hour's rugby; both sides showed great spirit.

We have taken a lot of boys on in the past year, and given time all will become assets. They have the basic elements to shine, so back yourselves and show what you are capable of and give it your all.

DD

Rhose FC in seventh heaven after victory

ACCORDING to head coach Paul Giles, Rhose FC set out to achieve two things in this Welsh League third division clash on Saturday at Jenner Park against Cwmaman Institute.

Firstly, secure the three points, and second to repair a previously fading goal difference. Needless to say both objectives were achieved in a 7-0 win. A brilliant hat-trick from Jacob Daly, two from top marksman Drew Fahia and goals from assist specialists Nicky Davison and Oliver Dalton saw the Vale side score at regular intervals throughout the match and run out comfortable winners.

The win also served to consolidate their position in mid-table and with half of their league fixtures now played will hopefully give them the momentum to push well into the top half of the table – and with so many games in hand, a top three spot is not out of the question.

Rhose face the long trek to Newcastle Emlyn, deep into west Wales for their next match on Saturday, March 8, the furthest trip

they will have to make in their league campaign this season.

They will hope to maintain the decent form they have been displaying of late, undoubtedly reaping the benefits of being able to field a settled squad at long last – previously disrupted by seemingly endless injuries and suspensions.

The next home game will be against Llanelli Town on Tuesday, March 11, at Jenner Park (kick off 7:45pm).

Rhose have signed promising 19 year old playmaker Abdel Boulache from AFC Butetown. Boulache's registration will be finalised this week in time for the Newcastle Emlyn trip.

Paul Giles is excited about the signing, commenting: "Abdel will give us greater depth to our squad, particularly up front and give us further, useful options. He is quick, dynamic and has good, quick feet and that extra pace that will worry defenders."

Rhose FC: Damian Lack; Craig Green; Gareth Powner; Michael Osborne; Oliver Dalton; Richard Yarr; Liam Jones; Jacob Daly; Nicky Davison; Drew Fahia; Joe Hinds; Sion Anstee; David Stevenson; Steve Hill.

AP

BARRY VETS SHINE IN TOURNAMENT

AFTER the celebrations of Wales' win last Friday week, Barry RFC Vets played host to our Beauvais RFC, friends of 40 years, on the Saturday morning.

Who would have thought that those original friendships would have survived the test of time and grown in strength. This is a testament to rugby and the personalities at both clubs – tres bien!

We also welcomed Bretigny 'Beti Bixkor' RFC Vets to the Reservoir Fields for the first time, but undoubtedly not the last. Not surprisingly quite a few players and supporters were feeling the effects of the revelry from the previous night.

All three games were played out in traditional Vets 'champagne/Barbarian' rugby style, with Barry Vets winning both games and the tournament.

The rugby was incidental in a way to the third half celebrations that carried on late into

the night in the club house.

Firstly, we had Barry Male Voice Choir entertaining the packed club house with the usual heart-rendering versions of Bread of Heaven, Calon Lan and other classics. All who witnessed thoroughly enjoyed this and joined in enthusiastically.

Then we had Barry's version of Elvis, Mike Bubbins, wowing our French guests and he even had Bretigny Vets linedancing to an Elvis classic – priceless and unforgettable.

He had to utilise the microphone of 'Squeak', who entertained us for the remainder of the night with a magical variety of Welsh and French classics alike.

In short they came, met old friends and made new ones. This is what Vets rugby is all about.

Thanks to the organising team of Colin Knapman, Pete G, Rachel B and Carol for assisting in the organisation. Massive thanks to the Bombettes kitchen staff and the girls who had to go for

more rations/food. A simply superb effort during the day and night; also thanks to Lyn P and Kira S who made a celebratory 40th cake.

Both sets of French friends travelled back home with Welsh voices singing in their ears. It's only three months until Barry Vets travel for the annual Beauvais Vets Tournoi on Saturday, May 17, where we aim to bring back a trophy – which one will depend on how many Vets come back for training!

AM

LONG DISTANCE RUNNING COMES TO JENNER PARK

THIS weekend sees the return of ultra-distance running to Jenner Park in the form of the Barry 40 Miles track race.

This iconic event, which has seen 59 world best performances since it was first held on the old cinder track in 1986, has again attracted a fascinating cross section of runners.

At the sharp end, one should look no further than last year's decisive winner, Pieter Vermeesch. The four times Belgian ultra-distance champion, who is based in Welwyn Garden City, ran an incredibly even-paced 4:08:59 last year, and has ambitions to be the first man at Barry to break the four hour barrier since 1999.

He may, however, still face a tough test from the champion of 2012, Grant Jeans from Glasgow, who was forced to drop out with a back injury 12 months ago.

Four of the 22 entries are from ladies, and it's possible to make a case for any one of them to win. Jen Salter, Angela Champion and Loretta Daley compete for the promoting club, Cardiff-based Les Croupiers, while Jayne Angille will be travelling from Redruth in Cornwall.

For the first time in the history of the race, three of the entries are from Hungarian born athletes living in the UK.

We welcome Tamas Szikszay, Zoltan Lesi and Andras Kulcsar who

are all experienced 24 hour performers.

As ever, the 22 athletes will have 22 very different race goals and it should be a fascinating event to watch. The start time is 10am on Sunday, March 9, and involves 161 circuits of the track; admission is free.

MM

Dinas Powys GC ladies' results

ON February 4, a nine hole-waltz was played:

First, Maxine Hird, Sian Smith and Pat Gosling 42 points; second Louise Wilding, Ann Mahenthalingam and Lisa Ryley 37; third Sue Bridle, Angela Brown and Audrey Harwood 36.

On February 18, a nine hole Stableford: First Angela Brown 21 points; second Sian Smith (20) on back six from third Maxine Hird (20) on back six from Louise Wilding.

On February 25, a nine hole Texas Scramble: 1st Angela Brown, Ruth Yates and Angela Thomas 38-6=32, on back six from second Lisa Ryley, Pat Gosling & Sheila Stoner 39-7=32; 3rd Maxine Hird, Sian Smith & Chris Nelms 39-6=32.58.

After playing golf in the lovely sunshine the ladies enjoyed a brunch and raffle. RY

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Iceland test for the Welsh

THE build-up towards qualification for the 2016 European Championships kicked off for Chris Coleman's Wales last night as they faced Iceland at the Cardiff City Stadium.

Having been drawn in a group featuring Bosnia-Herzegovina, Belgium, Israel, Cyprus and Andorra, and with 24 nations qualifying for the tournament, hope and expectation is high following the impressive way the Welsh concluded their World Cup qualifying campaign with a home win over Macedonia and a creditable draw with the talented Belgians, before a last-gasp equaliser denied them victory over Finland in a friendly last November.

Much will depend on Coleman's ability to field his first-choice team, with much of the expectation laid at the feet of Real Madrid's Gareth Bale, who was expected to play a large part in last night's game.

If things fall right, Wales could be looking at qualification for a major tournament for the first time since the 1958 World Cup, but a good start to their group is imperative to achieve this.

One thing is for sure – there will be plenty of twists and turns on the road to Euro 2016.

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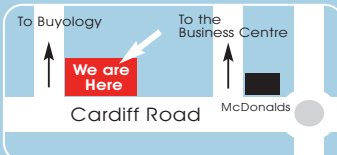
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The Cottrell Park ladies on St David's Day.



THE ladies section at Cottrell Park Golf Resort put on their best themed hats (above) in honour of the Welsh Patron Saint and took part in a St David's Day Competition on Thursday February 27.

Darts league round-up

ON Tuesday, February 25, the Men's Doubles and Ladies' Doubles knockout competitions began.

The ladies played at the Edmond's Arms; the two successful pairs, who will now meet on finals night, were Ann Hustwick and Joan Burt (Old Post Ladies) and Pam Adams and Joan Smith (Farmers Arms).

The men played at the Farmers Arms and the Llanharry Working Men's Club.

The eight successful pairs were Cedric Simmonite and Richard Reynolds (Edmond's A), Paul Newton and Tony Dencombe (Llanharry), Rob McCaver and Paul Ward (Hare & Hounds), Lee Davies and Morgan John (Llanharry), Martin Gaffney and David Cheal

and Eddie Pike (Edmond's B), Steve Newton and Victor John (Llanharry), Lee Harding and Kevin Barry (Edmond's A) and John Izzard and Simon Reader (Hare & Hounds).

The night produced a number of excellent performances, the best being the last match of the evening at Llanharry during which both Lee Davies (Llanharry) and John Davies (Edmond's C) hit a 180.

The league standings after 13 matches, are: Llanharry (105 points), Edmond's B (88), Cross Inn (62), Hare and Hounds (59), Edmond's C and Edmond's A (58), Farmers Arms and Highwayman Inn (53), Old Post Ladies (29), The Star Inn (20).

The next matches are on Tuesday, March 11, when the road to finals night in the men's singles

and ladies' singles knockout competitions begins.

The ladies will be playing at the Edmond's Arms, the men at the Cross Inn, Hare and Hounds, Llanharry Working Men's Club and the Farmers Arms; see website for details. The first matches start at 8.30pm and spectators are welcome.

For further information e-mail Paul at covbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website at: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

It is time to start thinking about next season, so if a group of you is interested in forming a team (six players minimum) and your local pub is willing to host you, get in touch and register your interest.

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GEM sport



Wales and the Six Nations

The triple championship bid is still on



As well as Jake Ball played in the win over France, the Welsh camp will be mightily relieved to have Alun Wyn Jones (above) back in action at Twickenham. They will also be glad to see the return from injury of centre Jonathan Davies (pictured below, back in action for the Scarlets last weekend), which means that dangerman George North can now return to his favoured left wing berth.



NEAR TO FULL STRENGTH AT LAST... No fear factor for Wales as team get set to overturn the Twickenham chariot

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

Flashback: TRIPLE CROWN WINNERS!



ABOVE: Twickenham, February 25, 2012 – Scott Williams silences the chants of 'Swing Low Sweet Chariot' with a stunning individual try which clinched Welsh victory (left).

If statistics alone were taken at their face value, there would appear to be little point in the Welsh rugby team packing their kit for the biennial foray down the M4 on Sunday, where England have triumphed on 35 of the 61 meetings between these two arch foes at fortress Twickenham.

While facts and figures may not tell the whole story, it's true that 'HQ' has been the scene of some horrendous beatings for Wales in recent years – with England amassing 265 points to Wales' paltry 61 in just five matches alone: viz, 1998 (60-26); a double whammy in 2002 (46-12 and 50-10); 2006 (47-13); culminating in the 62-5 horror show for travelling supporters in August 2007, when an experimental Welsh team was ruthlessly crushed underfoot by an English juggernaut pack and conceded nine tries – four by the No 8 Nick Easter, which underlined the glaring mismatch up front.

This was only weeks before departure for the Rugby World Cup in France, and was all the more galling as just five months earlier, a more recognisable first choice Wales side, brilliantly orchestrated at outside half by James Hook, had rescued a failing Six Nations campaign by defeating England 27-18 in Cardiff. (Hook had

a field day, scoing 22 of his side's points – converting his own try, adding four penalties and a drop goal).

In contrast, the Twickenham game was essentially all over at halftime, with England already 22-0 up and Jonny Wilkinson going on to rack up 17 points with his boot.

Even that embarrassing record loss was to be eclipsed by the ignominy of defeat to global minnows Fiji and an early flight home from the World Cup tournament – which proved to be the final straw for the WRU, resulting in the abrupt departure of hapless head coach Gareth Jenkins.

Within months, his successor, Kiwi Warren Gatland, had conjured a magical turnaround of Merlin-like proportions at the first attempt, with a shock 26-19 win at Twickenham that would lead on to a totally unexpected second Grand Slam for Wales, repeating Mike Ruddock's achievement in 2005.

That 2008 victory and 17 others at Twickenham over the years, will no doubt sustain a Welsh team growing in maturity, that has come a long way – with a now formidable track record of a World Cup semi-final in 2011, a third Grand Slam in 2012, and a whole host of Lions caps.

Moreover, there is the more recent fillip of that one-sided 30-3 Six Nations victory at the Millennium Stadium last year – which clinched

the championship and denied England a Grand Slam – to spur them on when the whistle sounds at 3pm on Sunday afternoon. (Yet another example of thoughtful Six Nations scheduling by the powers that be!)

In fact, the overall match statistics paint a far from bleak picture, for despite the near two decades that Welsh rugby spent floundering in the international wilderness, following the golden '70s when JPR, Gareth, Gerald *et al* reigned supreme and were the scourge of 'Twickers', the record books confirm that the two countries remain neck and neck, each with 56 wins (plus 12 draws) in the 124 meetings since their first close encounter of a 'friendly' kind 133 years ago, on February 19, 1881 at Blackheath.

Since then, the pendulum has swung cyclically from one to the other, and while Wales have won the last three games, England claimed the three previous encounters.

Two years ago, a truly titanic struggle at Twickenham, went right down to the wire, with Wales emerging triumphant (12-19) with the Triple Crown – but only after replacement centre Scott Williams had wrestled the ball away from lock Courtney Lawes and scored a Boy's Own try under the posts.

A pulsating duel that could have gone either way had one final moment of high drama when David Strettle was denied a last-minute try by

the video ref, which, if converted, would have secured a draw. So the stage is set for another, no-holds-barred thriller – and a Welsh side which has yet to hit full stride in this Six Nations, knows full well what to expect from a youngish England team that is slowly growing in confidence.

However, bolstered by the return of Alun Wyn Jones to the second row and Jonathan Davies in midfield, Wales know that they have the fire power and the track record to meet a tough challenge that no longer has an inbuilt Twickenham fear factor, as they hunt a record triple championship. *Let battle commence!*

WALES team v England

Leigh Halfpenny (Blues); Alex Cuthbert (Blues), Jonathan Davies (Scarlets), Jamie Roberts (Racing Metro), George North (Northampton); Rhys Priestland (Scarlets), Rhys Webb (Ospreys); Gethin Jenkins (Blues), Richard Hibbard (Ospreys), Adam Jones (Ospreys), Alun Wyn Jones (Ospreys), Luke Charteris (Perpignan), Dan Lydiate (Racing Metro), Sam Warburton (Blues, capt), Taulupe Faletau (Dragons).
Replacements: Ken Owens (Scarlets), Paul James (Bath Rugby), Rhodri Jones (Scarlets), Jake Ball (Scarlets), Justin Tipuric (Ospreys), Mike Phillips (Racing Metro), Dan Biggar (Ospreys), Liam Williams (Scarlets).